



State Council of Selangor  
Celebrating 50 Years of  
Transforming our Faith by  
Empowering the Poor & Marginalised

# Praxis

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SSVP SELANGOR CELEBRATES GOLDEN JUBILEE

MESSAGE FROM SSVP'S ECCLESIASTICAL ASSISTANT

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT OF THE SSVP SELANGOR STATE COUNCIL

REFLECTION

COMPUTER SKILLS TRAINING FOR ADMINISTRATORS OF HOME AND PROJECTS

FUN SUMMER CAMP AND OUTING FOR CHILDREN

OZANAM SERVICE CENTRE (COALFIELDS) OPEN HOUSE

CONFERENCE OF HOLY FAMILY KAJANG HOSTS MEDICAL CAMP

SDAC SUPPORT GROUP VOLUNTEERS

SAMSON WALKS TALL

EMPOWERING THOSE IN NEED

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE PRAYER

SSVP CAREGIVERS TRAINING PROGRAMME

RUMAH PENGAJIAN XAVIER'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

SNIPPETS OF OTHER EVENTS ORGANISED

VISITATION PROJECTS OF SSVP SELANGOR

GOLDEN JUBILEE ISSUE ◊ APRIL 2014

## SSVP Selangor celebrates Golden Jubilee

The State Council of Selangor celebrates its Golden Jubilee this year. The State Council of Selangor has been in existence for over 53 years and it is only appropriate that we formally celebrate the reaching of our Golden Jubilee to affirm and revitalize the membership in Selangor. This gives us the opportunity to reflect on our vocation thus far while constantly searching to deepen our relationship with God by furthering our vocation with the poor and marginalised, in new and effective ways.

Accordingly, the State Council has prepared an elaborate program for a period of 1 year culminating in the closing ceremony to be held on the 27th September 2014 in conjunction with our Feast Day. The theme of the Golden Jubilee celebration is "Transforming our Faith by Empowering the Poor & Marginalised". An important feature of all our celebration is that all our planned programs will be held at the respective parish levels where our conferences are sited involving the local parish community and BEC's to reaffirm our Catholic roots that starts and manifests as a "branch" at the Parish level.

The official launch of the Golden Jubilee celebration was held on 27 September 2013 coinciding with our Feast Day. Vincentians from all over the state gathered at the Church of Holy Redeemer Klang to mark the occasion by participating in an hour long Silent Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

This was followed by Mass celebrated by Fr Marie Arokiam, our Spiritual Advisor. The evening ended with a fellowship dinner hosted by the three conferences in Klang. The official launch of the State Council website also took place at the dinner. The Society has planned such that the celebrations will be spread over the whole state, with each Conference taking on the lead role in organizing the events and by working within their respective parishes and BEC communities.

As the commencement of the Golden Jubilee celebration also coincides with the Church's declaration of the "Year Of Faith", the State Council has drawn up a programme to "catechise" Vincentians in Selangor (and also Catholics), so that they will live their faith as practicing Catholics in humbleness and with spirit.

This was then followed by the planting of a 'time capsule' at Rumah Ozanam Petaling

Jaya, our first project home run, by the Holy Trinity Conference. The time capsule contains our history of 50 years in the cap, and we plan to open it in 50 years' time. This event took place on 4 December 2013 at 4.00 pm, followed by Mass at 6.00 pm. To mark this historic event, the Conferences of Assumption, St Francis Xavier, St Ignatius and Holy Trinity also jointly sponsored the cost of this soup kitchen run by the parish of Assumption Church to feed the poor and needy on that day.

The Conference of St Jude Rawang, which operates our HIV/AIDS Home for women and children living with HIV/AIDS and the Conference of Holy Family Kajang, have been tasked with organising an AIDS Awareness Day besides promoting and publicising its ongoing medical and hospice project.

Meanwhile, the Northern Conference of Holy Eucharist Batang Berjuntai, and our three Ozanam Service Centres (OSC) of Coalfields, Port Klang and Taman Sentosa have been tasked with celebrating World Environment Day which will include identifying an income generating environmental project to create jobs for the poor and needy. We are preparing for the launch of this project sometime next year coinciding with World Environment Day.

Amidst the various activities, the Golden Jubilee committee headed by Bro Francis Lai, has also drawn up various Formation, Training & development Programs to upgrade the skills of members, staff and volunteers in the know how of empowerment while forming them to recognize that empowerment of the Poor is very central to our Lord's teachings and desires. committee has also. A total of 6 such programs have been carried out over time and will culminate in a grass root formation program on the Richness of our Rule in advocating change.

Besides this, two fundraising projects are also being planned for the Jubilee year. The funds raised will go towards funding the operations of the State Council for a sustained one or two year duration.

These two fundraising projects are being undertaken by the SSVP/MAGIS youths and by a team of talented collaborators of the Society. The first of the fundraising

project will be the corporate funded Mount Kinabalu climb.

The second fundraising project will also feature a professional theatre performance to promote and create awareness to the public on the life and works of Blessed Frederick Ozanam.

While all these programmes are planned for progressive implementation during the Golden Jubilee year of the State Council, they mark a milestone of the life of the Society in the Selangor state.

It will help all Vincentians, especially those in Selangor, to remember and recall the struggles and contributions of our brothers and sisters who have pioneered the spirit and works of charity and social justice of the Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and St Vincent De Paul at the various Selangor based conferences and projects.

We pray that we will be further renewed and inspired to continue to serve the Society for the greater glory of God.

[Launch of SSVP Selangor Website.](#)

After several attempts, we are pleased to inform you that the State Council of Selangor now has its own website. The dynamic website that allows us to update our Mission and works regularly is unique in its content. Plans are now underway to upgrade the content of the website to make it even more interactive and using the website as a tool to promote the products of cottage industries that the State intends to promote amongst the many we work with thereby empowering them to be financially independent.



The Selangor State Council would like to acknowledge the efforts and contribution by Bro Terence Conrad in setting up the website and enabling it to go live in time for the Golden Jubilee celebrations during our Feast Day / Golden Jubilee dinner.

## Message from SSVP Ecclesiastical Assistant

Dear fellow Vincentians and friends of the poor  
Shalom and greetings in the Lord!  
It is a great blessing and opportunity to meet all of you once again through this issue of Praxis.



Let me begin by saying, that we owe our thanks and gratitude to God for guiding our society in the past 50 years. As a State Council it is not only an achievement that we must be proud of but it's a successful mile stone, that we have journeyed together through thick and thin as Vincentians reaching out to serve the poor and marginalised within our society.

This journey does not stop here for us, but continues as we reflect on how we can now 'TRANSFORM OUR FAITH BY EMPOWERING THE POOR & MARGINALISED'. As we come to the tail-end of our conclusion for the "Year of Faith" perhaps, it's the right time now to reflect as to how we can live, act and witness our faith as Christian Vincentians.

I am most certain, that each of us have taken the "Year of Faith" seriously and having heard the call of both our Pontiffs Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis we had taken personal initiatives to deepen and strengthened our own individual faith and in our families, BECs and parish communities.

If this exercise to build up our own faith and spirituality was true and real, then there should be no problem in this Jubilee year to empower each of ourselves first as brothers and sisters before we empower the poor and marginalised. As it is said, charity must begin in our home.

In this Jubilee year I wish to reflect with you this scripture text of Mt 14:13-21, and challenge you as Vincentians individually. It's a familiar text for all of us collectively which needs an individual respond. In verse 16, Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away; You give them something to eat".

Here Jesus is inviting us as He did with His disciples to look at all the gifts, charisms and blessings we have received from God as an individual. What percentage of our earnings and blessings inherited have we given away to the poor as empowerment? It looks like we have been distributing what we are collecting from others like the loaves and fish from the little boy who was in the crowd of the multiplication of loaves. It is time that we make personal contributions from our coppers too to build the society and all our activities in small and big ways. The call in the scripture for Jubilee year is to set the captives free, to celebrate a thanksgiving to God and to reconcile with God and fellow men. We need to reconcile with God and one another as brothers and sisters given our human differences and weaknesses. Let's turn to God and pray for His grace at the Jubilee Eucharist to become humble servants who will live this call in our lives as Vincentians and give all the Glory and praise to God in the footsteps of St Vincent De Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam.

May God continue to shower His choicest blessings upon each of you and the society as we reach the height of 50 golden years of serving the poor and marginalised in various ways and means. Looking forward to another 50 years of humble serving, and I wish to thank you all for your prayers towards my healing and recovery.

Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of the Church, St Vincent De Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam ... God bless you all with peace!

My Soul Glorifies the Lord

Rev Fr Mari Arokiam  
SSVP Ecclesiastical Assistant  
Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur

## Message from SSVP State Council President

*"Do not deny the poor his food and do not make the man who looks at you with pleading eyes wait. Do not sadden the hungry person nor annoy anyone who is in need. Do not exasperate an angry man nor withhold alms from the beggar. do not turn away your face from the needy. Listen to the poor man and reply to him with kind words and with peace. Deliver the oppressed from the hands of the oppressor" (Sirach 4: 1-10)*

Dear Sisters, and Brothers in Christ,

"Greetings of peace in Vincentian fraternity"! Foremost, I wish to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Happy and Blessed Easter. Easter is a time when we Catholics come together and acknowledge perhaps the greatest mystery of all -the "Resurrection of our Lord". For without the Resurrection, we have no Hope. The Resurrection brings us a new meaning of hope, gives us new life and makes us a people who journey with faith, hope and with a clear understanding that there is a world to come where all of us could be made perfect in Him. *(1 John 3 : 1-3)*



As we ponder through the Mystery of Easter, we must always take stock of where we are as Vincentians, in our Vocation and Apostolate as guided by our Founder Blessed Frederick Ozanam. While we can all be justifiably proud in Selangor for the immense amount of works that is done, we must consistently and consciously ask ourselves if these works, are purely acts of charity or are they indeed a faith response that 'springs forth' from the depths of our soul and that seeks to sanctify each and every person whom we meet and encounter in the Person of our Suffering Christ. For works of charity are done by many in the world, but works where we recognise the Holiness and Sanctity of the Human Person through our encounter of our Risen Lord carrying the wounds of the Suffering person, can only be unique to those of us who profess to want to Know Him, Love Him and Serve Him *(CCC - Catechism of the Catholic Church)*

Human nature is such that, because of the works that we do, where the outside world sees these works as charitable works, as helping someone elsewhere where we are the providers and the other person whom we meet is the receiver, we become somewhat "above" the other person. But, Easter and the events leading to Easter from Ash Wednesday, clearly tells us that Jesus did not take that role. In fact, He lowered himself (abased himself) to be the person who bore the brunt of sufferings, pain and humiliation. He needed women to wipe his face, He was thirsty, He needed Simon to help him carry his cross – He needed people to comfort Him, soothe Him and ease His pain; and yet moments before dying he comforted us all by giving us His mother, Mother Mary to be our Mother and by forgiving all those who harmed Him. If we reflect on this, we realize that God is reaching out to us, in the form of this suffering person and inviting us to help, soothe and comfort Him. For God is so powerful, that He could change the world at the stroke of His hand; And yet, He chooses to suffer and die in humiliation, providing us with an opportunity, and more importantly, inviting us to be His partners, to be His collaborators of Justice and Peace to this world, i.e. to be instruments of His love where we are to alleviate and share the burdens, pain and suffering of the poor- the marginalized. We are to give hope to such people, but how can we give such hope if we ourselves don't truly internalize, experience this hope in ourselves so that we can bring this message of hope to others?

Sisters and Brothers, our Society in Selangor has been embarking on various empowerment projects. As we embark on these projects, the challenges involved are even larger. We need more human resources, we need more money, we need training, we need formation, and we need to be able to transform ourselves as a people of hope who will bring hope to others! Amidst all these challenges, I must congratulate the many members in Selangor that you have taken up this challenge, and made the necessary changes to rise to this challenge. But we need to do more! We must also be mindful that while the majority of members have embraced the concept of empowerment and Social Justice and respecting the rights and dignity of the Human Person, there are still many of us who do need to make this "shift and change". We need to put aside prejudices, our judgmental thoughts, some of our outmoded, traditional ways of doing things and our differences. We need to seriously ask ourselves, if when working with the poor or a person in need, are we sanctifying that person? Are we instruments who make the person "feel" as a creation of God, as a person of dignity and rights, or are we assuming the role of the provider and the judge? For if we took the second role, then we are telling God that He is no longer the provider, and we would become "little gods" ourselves. Perhaps our Holy Father, Pope Francis said and guided us best when he posed these questions to us when asked about giving alms.

When I give alms do I look into the eyes of my brother sister?

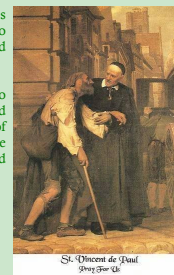
Did I caress (touch) or hug the person who is sick, elderly, and children or have I lost sight of the meaning of the word caress? *(Pope Francis 2014)*

How so real! It is easy to give alms. But it is never easy to belong to the person whom we are reaching out to! This year as we continue our Golden Jubilee celebrations, it is my sincere prayer that we would indeed be seen as a People of God who love beyond boundaries bringing about a message of Hope and Love through our unselfish acts of Love, Empowerment and Charity to all irrespective of Race, Greed, Color or Religion.

May we be inspired by the simplicity of Mother Mary who said Yes to God and who then made it possible for Word to become Flesh to live and dwell amongst us! May God continue to inspire us through the rich teachings and Spirit of Blessed Frederick Ozanam and St Vincent De Paul as we earnestly continue to seek and invoke the special intercessory prayers of Blessed Frederick Ozanam and St Vincent De Paul to bless our society with openness and courage to reach out to the poorest of the poor and those who are rejected and outcast and voiceless bringing Hope, Peace and Joy to all who most need it. May Mother Mary continue to pray for us even as we seek her special prayers for us, Vincentians!

Yours in Vincentian Service

Bro Rajenthiran ( Raj ) Narayanan



St. Vincent de Paul  
1875-1876

## Reflection

As we join our fellow Vincentians worldwide in the celebration of the Feast Day of our patron Saint, St Vincent De Paul, on 27 September, we reflect on the very essence of what it means to be an advocate of his



virtues of selflessness, zeal and passion for the poor and marginalised.

It is not so much of what we project outwardly through our work that matters most, but that we have been granted God's grace to be able to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need; and be humbled and spiritually enriched by each experience. Sirach 4: 1-5 profoundly echoes the Vincentian praxis:

"1 My child, don't prevent the poor from making a living, or keep them waiting in their need. 2 Never give a hungry person any cause for resentment or anger. 3 Don't add to the troubles of someone who is already desperate. If he is in need, don't put off giving to him. 4-5 Don't refuse to help a beggar who is in distress. Don't turn your back on a poor person or give him any reason to curse you".

This year, our Feast Day bears a special meaning to all Vincentians in Selangor, as we reach an important milestone on the occasion of our 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Jubilee.

Our Golden Jubilee and Feast Day celebrations will be a spiritual journey involving all Vincentians in Selangor. It will be an opportune time for us to reaffirm our response and commitment to the "Year of Faith" and our Jubilee theme of "Transforming our Faith by Empowering the Poor and Marginalised".



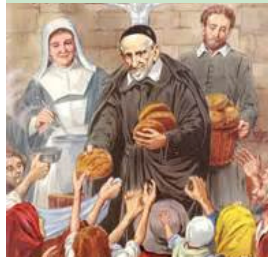
It is hoped that the holistic spiritual formation undertaken through the various activities we have planned for in conjunction with our Golden Jubilee, will help us be better prepared to help empower the poor and marginalised.

The Society's inclusion and enhancement of the elements of social justice, care for the environment and working with the "new poor" in all our services and projects, are important in the transformation of our faith as we deepen the praxis element of our faith.

Additionally, we have identified a new

area of service that we have not been actively involved in the past, i.e. working with Orang Asli children - looking into their education needs (including badly needed education facilities).

We are also working on a plan to



involve the children of our Homes in this project as an outreach exercise for them to be involved in. This is a form of empowerment and provides them the opportunity to build people-to-people links, develop their character and leadership skills, as they journey with us.

We have indeed come a long way since our inception more than 50 years ago and nothing prides us Selangor Vincentians more than seeing the Society grow and evolve with the times, to continue steadfastly to journey with and to support our brothers and sisters in need.

May many more people be blessed with the divine fortune of experiencing the Vincentian way of living the Catholic faith through prayer, solidarity, fellowship, selflessness, zeal and passion, as we continue to journey in Christ's love.

## Computer skills training for administrators of Home and Projects

An increase in the number of projects and the inevitable extended work expended to the underprivileged at the 12 special projects currently under the purview of SSVF Conferences and the State Council over the last three years saw an increase in the employment of additional full-time staff at both the Selangor State Council and Conferences.

To assist in the increased workload and the management of these various projects it has become evident that there is an imperative need to enhance the computer skills of our staff, in particular that of our Administrators and Assistant Administrators.

Taking it further, the State Council is of the view that improving the writing and administrative skills of our staff are also part of our Vincentian vocation as this would equip them with better future job opportunities.



Towards this end, the two computer skills training sessions (one on Microsoft skills and the other on Excel skills) were held at the State Council's Office in Taman Sentosa, Jalan Klang Lama, on 5 and 7 July 2013 from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm.

Both the courses were conducted by Angeline Morgis, a certified PSMB Training Consultant who has been training corporate clients for over 20 years. The training included hands on practical training and theoretical input with easy-to-comprehend handouts.

Following positive feedback from the trainees, the State Council will be organising a follow-up course on Microsoft and Excel. This will be followed by a training session on the completion of standard forms in all our Centres and Homes on Excel format with a view to standardise and improve our work

process in all our centres and homes. Moving forward, the State Council also intends to maintain all management information and records at both the State and Conference level in a central computer storage data base for easy review and decision making at Management and Board level.

The State Council is indebted and would wish



to record our sincere thanks to Ms Angeline Morgis, who sacrificed her valuable time to conduct the training free of charge.

## Fun summer camp and outing for children

The National Society of St Vincent De Paul, State Council of Selangor successfully organised a fun summer camp and outing for children for SSVF Homes in Selangor. The camp was coordinated by Ms Malini, the Social Development Coordinator of the Society.

The camp was held at Kingfisher Adventure Hulu Langat over a weekend. It was a three-day/two-night trip. A total of 109 children participated in the camp.

The objectives of the camp were to instill life skills, positive values, leadership skills and the spirit of caring for each other.

The camp started with registration and ice-breaking sessions. This was followed by a workshop on

personality and confidence enhancement by Mr Jeevinthan, a freelance speaker. This session was effective in motivating the children to get involved in group activities. Another session conducted by Mr Jeevin was for boys above 12 years old on ten challenges.

For girls 12 years old and above a session on grooming was conducted by Ms Nadia Wong and her assistant. The girls were taught and guided on personal hygienic, self-cleanliness and grooming.

Kingfisher Adventure Team leader led the children through a "Night Walk" This was to teach them to be alert and be to prepared as well as to face any obstacles. This activity was aimed at assisting the children to overcome their fears.

Talks on personal safety and first aid by Mr Murugan from Persatuan Bulan Sabit Merah Malaysia taught and guided the children on how to handle an emergency situation - such as when someone gets electrocuted, involved in any home accidents minor or serious, and various techniques on bandage tying.

On the final day, the children had to exercise their brain to find out clues in a treasure hunt session prepared by facilitators. A prize giving ceremony ensued and some moments of reflection were shared by the kids on the camp.

\* Special thanks to the SDAC Coordinator, Ms Malini for having organised this camp.

## Ozanam Service Centre (Coalfields) Open House

Ozanam Service Centre Coalfields, Sungai Buloh held its open house with the theme "Come and See" on Saturday, 22 June 2013. The day's programme started with an opening prayer by two children who attend tuition at the Centre. Eight *tadika* children then performed a dance to welcome the visitors.



After introductions by the Centre's Administrator, Bro Raj, the SSVF Selangor State Council President addressed the guests present. He highlighted the work of the Service Centre at Coalfields namely in the following three areas:

- the conducting of education programmes especially in the running of the *Tadika* and tuition classes for the children, aimed at empowering them with a good education in order to secure a better future. The tuition classes included computer classes, moral lessons and English classes for mothers and adults;
- empowering parents and the adults by obtaining necessary documentations like birth certificates, identity cards, Malaysian citizenship, SOCSO claims etc; and
- to obtain the necessary tools and resources for the adults to source for better career and employment opportunities while providing training.

In his address, Bro Raj also announced plans to expand our scope of services students to set up a resource centre at OSC Coalfields for students to carry out research and project studies.

He also took the opportunity to acknowledge the services of the volunteers who come from within the society, the local Catholic Church community of St Paul the Hermit; and also and outsiders from far and near; especially our three young volunteers who were giving their services as tuition teachers while still being students themselves at higher institutions.

Since its inception, the Centre has attended to more than 55 cases. Of this number, 20 were settled while the rest are pending approval by the authorities.

Some other empowerment services rendered include successfully helping a lady to obtain a proper trading license from the local authorities to sell home-cooked food, which enabled her to be successfully self-employed.

The Society also assisted her in renovating her shop and in providing seed money to kick-start the business.

An exhibition was also organised for the occasion. It displayed photos of activities run by the Centre.

The preparation and layout for the exhibition saw active participation by the people who have been helped by the Centre besides the volunteers themselves.



Typical of Malaysian hospitality, the guests and visitors were provided a light meal. Rev Fr Edwin Paul, who had a busy schedule, also honored us by dropping by and spending some time at the Centre, meeting and mingling with the people who were there.

A brief summary of the current services provided from OSC Coalfields are as follows:

- tuition classes conducted every Saturday for about 60 students, comprising of *tadika* and primary;
- computer class for students from age 11 onwards taught by a volunteer, Mr Charles. Moral lesson is taught by Ms Ursula one of the longest serving volunteers who faithfully travels all the way from Sungai. Buloh;



- adult English class is held every month for working adults. These dedicated volunteers travel from the Church of Divine Mercy to render their services to about 10 adults who are learning conversational English.

- assisting in documentary requirements. OSC Coalfield created 55 files and 20 files were closed successfully.

- self-help projects. A single mother self-help project was initiated by this Centre. She successfully got her a business registered and got a license to operate a food stall.

- special assistance, e.g. helping a young school going boy get fitted with an artificial leg which enabled him to resume his daily routine.



It is also hoped that with a better understanding of the Vincentian works of charity more volunteers will come forward to help out the Service Centre in both the educational programmes and also in the management of the cases - so that those who come to seek our support can be attended to more effectively and efficiently.

The Society of St Vincent De Paul would like to thank the team which helped make the Centre's Open Day a meaningful success.

\*Written by Victor Arasu

## Conference of Holy Family, Kajang hosts medical camp



In conjunction with its 50 years of service, the Society of St Vincent De Paul, Conference of the Holy Family Kajang, and Rumah Keluarga Kami, organised free medical screening for the parishioners of the Holy Family Church Kajang, migrants, adoptees from the Ministry of the Poor, and the general public. This inaugural two-day medical camp witnessed members of the Conference and volunteers from all walks of life sacrificing their time to share their skills in providing a wide range of medical services.

The event which was held on the weekend of 7 and 8 September 2013, was held at the premises of the Holy Family Church, Kajang. It started with a steady flow of patients on Saturday

where about 70 screenings were conducted. There was hustle and bustle from curious parishioners and onlookers walking in and out of the Holy Family Church hall after Sunday Mass.

The services included medical and dental checks provided by specialists, dentists, general practitioners, nurses and pharmacists from public hospitals and private practices who shouldered together and steered the medical camp which gained the participation of over 300 patients in the course of two days.

The medical camp, spearheaded by members of the Conference in its inaugural year, was purposed towards providing free medical screening once a year to the public to ease the rising costs of medical services and medications. The Conference has plans to make this an annual event.

One of the more gratifying services driven by the medical camp was awareness to over 1,000 people on organ donation. Stationed in the hall and constantly manned by two to three volunteers, the organ donation booth by the National Transplant Resource Centre saw over 70 individuals pledging their organs, promising hope to fellow Malaysians awaiting transplants.

Amongst the many who signed up was Rev Father George Harrison, the Parish Priest of the Holy Family Church, Kajang who spontaneously signed up as an organ donor to the cheers of many in the hall. A young Sunday School child of 11 years, with the consent of her mother, also registered as a donor. The organ donation booth left many with a heartwarming message that we could live on even when we passed on, by giving life to others.

A talk on kidney and heart diseases was also conducted by a team from the National Kidney Foundation. The talk was attended by about 50 persons and it touched on the symptoms, prevention and treatment.

Many made it a point to take photographs with the attention grabbing "Trauma Unit" which functioned as a mini-hospital on wheels, parked at the driveway of the Church's compound. service was provided free of cost by Safe Aim Mutual Sdn Bhd, with the Trauma Unit providing ECG, scans and dental checks to the public.

This being its first year, there were some initial shortcomings. The Conference has received several recommendations via feedback questionnaires from patients and volunteers and will use these to enhance and improve the next Medical Camp. Following enquiries by many and in light of the growing need, the Conference wishes to also include a blood donation drive in next year's Medical Camp. Following the huge and responsive turn out, the Medical Camp will return next year as an annual effort by the Conference to provide medical screening to members of the public with more medical services to be made available.

With the estimated cost of RM60 per patient, the Medical Camp successfully provided over RM18,000.00 worth of medical screening and treatment to patients who attended and participated. Needless to say, this would not have been made possible without the assistance and help of many who gave up their time over the weekend in ensuring its success.

The Conference wishes to place on record its heartfelt thanks to Rev. Fr. George Harrison for his untiring support, parishioners of the Church of the Holy Family, in particular the PIHD team, all doctors, nurses and volunteers, residents of Second Chance Community Home and the staff and children of Rumah Keluarga Kami.

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Following the huge and encouraging turn out, the medical camp will return next year as an annual effort by the Conference to provide medical screening to members of the public with more medical services to be made available.

Based on enquiries by many and in light of growing need, the Conference is looking to also include a blood donation drive in next year's medical camp.

With an estimated cost of RM60 per patient, the medical camp successfully provided in excess of RM18,000 worth of medical screening and treatment to patients who participated.

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The Conference would also like to thank the National Transport Resource Centre, the Ministry of Health and the Malaysian Kidney Foundation for their participation and support. Special thanks also goes out to Mr Samuel Hogg (also a parishioner) of Safe Aim Mutual Sdn Bhd not only for the use of the mobile "Trauma Unit", but also for his team's assistance. The Conference would also like to acknowledge the hospitals and pharmaceutical companies which sponsored the medical appliances used to facilitate the medical screenings, namely Subang Eye Specialist Centre and Dong Fong Pharmacy, Kajang for their generosity.

For further information on how you can volunteer for the next medical camp, or if you wish to join the Conference in its various works for the less privileged in and around Ulu Langat District, please call the Home Administrator at 03 8736 7877 or 012 2278727.



## SDAC Support Group Volunteers

Given the current fast changing environment and consequent challenges faced by the children residing in our six Homes, the need to provide social and psychological support has not only increased but has become crucial and obligatory. Towards this end, the Society saw the need to form a Social Development Action Committee (SDAC) with the responsibility to meet this task.

With this, the support group members/volunteers will be able to provide the necessary help for the development of the children by providing one-to-one interaction.

Thus, this group will provide the necessary manpower and time to counsel and most of all, will be a trusted friend to these children.

Reach out was done to invite more volunteers to participate in the preview session and they will be part of SSVV through the support group volunteers.

The objectives of the preview session was to let the volunteers to know in detail on what we do and how we could help the community in the various social development programmes.

SDAC have completed six modules of training for the SDAC volunteers. The training emphasised on listening skills, communication skills, basic approaches in counseling, case study on some relevant cases/pay therapy, recording and reporting; and last but not least, the interview session.

The purpose of having an interview with the candidates is to finalise suitable candidates, and to gauge their availability to visit the children

The SDAC Support Group volunteers will get into action to Rumah Kanak-Kanak Impian, Rumah Pengajian Xavier, Rumah Keluarga Kami, Rumah SSVV Klang and Rumah Ozanam Klang. Their first visit to the Homes will assisted by Sis Malini.

We are of the opinion that there be a Case Conference at least once in a month to review what they have been doing and to have some additional skills training so that they are up to date.

Bro Ronald from Emmaus Counseling will be the advisor and will be assisted by Sis Malini for all the cases and Volunteers (SDAC).



## Samson walks tall

Almost 9 months ago, the mother of Samson a/1 Steven Baboo, a 10 year old boy, approached our Centre Administrator Bro Arokiasamy (Sam) from the Coalfields Service Centre for routine OSC Support and to help her son with his medical condition. From birth Samson had a deformity in his right leg—it is six inches shorter.

He walked with much visible difficulty. This also led to other health complications for the boy. OSC Coalfields was determined that to do something for him sooner than later before his health deteriorated .

However, Samson's medical file was with Klinik Kesihatan Ijok. With some prompting, the file was transferred to the General Hospital (GH), Kuala Lumpur for medical examinations and recommendations by doctors there.

In the meantime, Bro Danny Kummur contacted Mr.Purveen, the owner of the Central Limb Centre Sdn Bhd, in Jalan Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur through an acquaintance. Through the perseverance of Bro Sam and subsequently by Bro Victor; followed by several visits to the GH Kuala Lumpur and the Limb Centre, Samson was eventually fitted with an artificial limb at no cost, except for the travelling expenses which was paid for by the Society.

Since then Samson's overall health condition has improved and he is also now able to be more involved in social activities, bringing about a positive cheer in him. The hard work, perseverance and commitment demonstrated by Bro Sam, Bro Victor and Mr Purveen of the Central Limb Centre is very much appreciated.

Samson is now beginning to enjoy his childhood and we pray that he will grow to be a well-natured boy and fully develop his talents and abilities.





## Empowering those in need

*Empowering those in need to become self-dependent and reliant by earning better income with better work opportunities*

Letchumi a/p Punnyan is 31 years. She is a single mother, separated from her husband, and has four children. Two years ago, she came to our OSC in Sri Sentosa seeking support to help sustain the basic needs of her family. At that time she was working at a sundry shop with little benefits. The money she earned from that job was not enough to finance her living conditions.

Upon further consultation, she was among the seven recommended to work at Cititel Hotel Mid Valley. Cititel is one of the employers who have been working with the SSVF Selangor, in helping to provide better work opportunities for the poor with decent and fair wages.



At first, she was employed on a part-time basis at one of the cafes in Cititel where she was able to get about RM1,100 per month. Within a month, she was offered a permanent position as a staff at the F&B department which gave her an opportunity to earn more than RM1,300 per month with benefits.

Though this was considered good news, she was worried whether she cope with working in shifts. However, thinking of the plight of her children, she accepted the offer and after undergoing three months training, she received her confirmation.

It has now been two years since she started work at Cititel. She has been promoted as a supervisor and is earning more than RM2,100 a month with EPF/SOCOSO benefits - a big improvement from the time when she was earning less than RM800 a month without benefits.

Recently she was also given an award for helping to nab a thief. Letchumi is hard working, humble and able to handle pressure - qualities which her employers appreciate. She is happy working at Cititel and says that the management is always encouraging, compassionate and caring.

As part of our efforts to empower the poor working class, SSVF Selangor is collaborating with selected employers offering better employment opportunities. These include the provision of fair wages and career advancement opportunities for the poor who have been in the past exploited by unscrupulous employers. This initiative which was soft-launched early this year is beginning to bear fruit. Some of our support families are now

## The Golden Jubilee Prayer



Heavenly Father, Lord of compassion and mercy, we thank You for the many blessings You have showered upon us and our Society. We pray that as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary as Vincentians in Selangor, we would be inspired by the teachings of St Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederick Ozanam to be instruments of love, justice, charity and empowerment, especially for those who are poor and marginalised.

We also pray Lord, that as Vincentians, we will through our meetings and visitations strengthen our Spirit and deepen our friendship and understanding of one another. Lord, we seek and commit to embrace the virtues of humility, meekness, simplicity, zeal and mortification, as we journey with all through whom we are privileged to encounter You.

Enable us O Lord, to help bring about social justice by restoring basic human rights and dignity of the person in the poor and marginalised, and rejected by society. Help us to love and respect them, to understand their needs, and to share their burdens and joys as true friends. Grant us Lord, the grace of meeting You and being enlightened by You in our journey with them just like the disciples at Emmaus were enlightened by you.

We ask You this Lord, in the most holy and precious name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and one who reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Mother Mary, Queen of all, pray for us Vincentians in Selangor, that we will remain steadfast in our works of mercy and social justice.

Hail Mary....

Glory Be .....

## SSVP caregivers training programme

*"Theme : We cannot fashion our children after our desires. We must have them and love them as God has given them to us"*

For the first time in many years, SSVP Selangor successfully organised a training program for all the caregivers (including administrators, wardens and housemothers) from all its Homes, kindergarten and Service Centres operated by the Society in Selangor.

The Society operates eight Homes (six Homes for children/teenagers, one Home for women and children living with HIV/AIDS and one half-way Home for prison parolees), three Service Centres and one kindergarten in Selangor working with more than 200 children and residents. The children and residents are from poor families or are marginalised in various forms (abused, abandoned, orphaned etc).

The programme was held at the Methodist Centre, Frasers Hill over a full weekend (3 days and 2 nights) in mid-March. A total of 24 caregivers took part in the training programme. Members of the Society took turns to look after the children at the Homes while the caregivers were away for the training session.

The objective of the training was to upgrade the skills and knowledge of the caregivers in handling our children and residents. More importantly the programme also helped instill a sense of belonging to the Vincentian Apostolate and 'awaken' them to treat their work as a vocation.

The Society had often in the past hired many caregivers (especially housemothers) based on the fact that these caregivers were poor and needed work. There was no focus on developmental guidance and skills training in raising children (from difficult backgrounds) in a sensitive and objective manner, such as through holistic formation of the children, instead of just providing "maid" services.

The Society has identified that gap

and see the need to train our caregivers, who are committed and loving to the children, knowledgeable in the psychology of raising children in today's world; and in ensuring that the caregivers would be God's instruments in raising the self-esteem and dignity of the children in our Homes.

The Society was (and still is) keen to instill the spirit of togetherness and equal role with the members in providing care to the children together.



The sessions were delivered by carefully selected speakers in the respective fields, dealing with various relevant topics which included talks on self-awareness, communication skills, talks on family matters, parent-child relationship; acceptance and love, and the needs of a child. A first aid session was delivered by Mr. Murugan from the Malaysian Red Crescent.

This session helped participants to acquire the necessary skills in basic first aid, learn the proper way to respond to emergencies, to be able to assess and maintain life in crucial moments following an emergency, and to ensure that proper and correct care are provided to an injured or sick person before the arrival of emergency medical staff.

It also taught the rescuers to deliver their aid in a healthy and safe manner with and without medical equipments.

The sessions were conducted in both Tamil and English language. During the sessions, the participants were given ample opportunities to express and exchange opinions and thoughts.

The session ended with an open forum led by Mr. Ronald Fernandez (Emmaus Centre), Bros Raj and Danny (State Board Members).

The frank nature of the discussions was a big step by the Society in truly acknowledging the equal role of caregivers in providing care for the children and in helping SSVP members further develop their vocation as Vincentians.

In conclusion, this training programme helped foster good relationships between administrators and caregivers. It was also a good opportunity for the caregivers to get to know each other and share their knowledge and challenges besides helping them recognise their own hidden talents and skills, in every sense of the word.

The Society is now planning follow-up sessions so that the level of care provided to residents of all our Homes is in full respect of the nature, rights and dignity of all persons, and more so the suffering and the poor. Prayer was an integral component of the programme regardless of their respective faiths.

The training programme also helped all caregivers understand the real reason for the Society and its members to embark in such projects. They recognise that such projects of Homes and Service Centres of the Society in Selangor, are not just empowerment projects for the poor, but a calling for Vincentians to seek and encounter God in the form of our suffering Christ in the children and the residents — and through such encounters to honor, love and serve Him.



## Rumah Pengajian Xavier's 10th Anniversary

Rumah Pengajian Xavier (RPX) celebrated its first decade recently that culminated in a charity golf tournament and Gala dinner. In the past 10 years, the Home has seen many successes including several lads completing their secondary school education and then moving on to pursue their tertiary studies.

RPX's pioneer entry for vocational training at Monfort Boys Town has graduated from his motor mechanic course and has emerged as the best prefect. Another RPX lad is doing his studies in hospitality.

The charity golf tournament and Gala dinner at the Kelab Golf Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah (KGSAA), Shah Alam started in the afternoon with 52 golfers teeing off. Rain greeted the golfers in the later part of the afternoon and disrupted their game - but once it stopped raining, the golfers were back on the green.

In the evening, an eight-course Chinese dinner was attended by approximately 260 people. The entertainment was sponsored by Tapestry. Rovin was the emcee for the night and he volunteered his services for this good cause. There were many lucky draw prizes, including the grand prize which was a dinner for 10 people at the Super Tanker restaurant. All the lucky draw prizes as well as the golf prizes were sponsored by kind benefactors.

The dinner featured a slideshow on the Homes run by SSV in Selangor and a video on RPX, produced by the RPX boys themselves. The highlight of the evening was the recognition that SSV gave towards Karthik's mother for her perseverance in seeing her son succeed. Karthik joined RPX in Form 1 with very bad UPSR results, but with hard work, today he is pursuing a Diploma in Accounting at SEGI College.

The golf and dinner event was a great success and SSV managed to raise RM45,000. This money will definitely serve well as SSV continues its pursuit in obtaining sufficient funds to purchase its own Home which could accommodate many more boys. All this would not have been possible without the strong support of our priest, the parish community and the multitudes of volunteers, donors, benefactors and SSV members. Moving forward, RPX will continue to play the role of empowering the young through education for a more secure future.

## Snippets of other events organised

### Football Clinic by The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (M)

35 children from four Centres under the Society of St Vincent De Paul took part in a football clinic organised by the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (M).

The clinic was held at La Salle School in Brickfields. The clinic kicked off at 8.45 am with a training session on basic skills in football.

The children were divided into two groups according to their ages: eight to 10 years; and the other group from 11 to 16 years.

The children had great fun despite the hot weather. Each child was given a set of full sports attire. What thrilled them was when each were handed a Nike football to take home.

Kudos to Bank of Tokyo - Mitsubishi staff and management for making this day possible!



### Housemothers' Follow-Up Session

The SSV State Council of Selangor successfully conducted training for administrators and caregivers at Frasers Hills in mid March 2013. A follow-up session for all housemothers was also successfully conducted on 1 June 2013. Much time and effort was put in the selection of speakers and facilitators—to follow through from where they left off at the last training session.

The main objective of the follow-up session was to equip Home-based caregivers with the required skills and knowledge on how to plan and provide for the developmental needs of the children in a Home setting. At the same time, it was a good time to get to know if they had a chance to practice the methods previously taught.

The first session was conducted by Ms Mogana. She had a recap of all topics that was covered in the first training.

The session was designed for the housemothers to understand that they have the opportunity to make a great difference in someone's life. It also made them understand that the responsibility entrusted upon them is significant as they are required to promote every aspect of a child's development.



Understanding the purpose behind their roles and learning how to work together to achieve the objectives are integral. The session was conducted by Mr. Anderson from SUKA Society. He shared some ideas and tips on how to understand children and ways of coping with them.

A dialogue between Bro Raj and Bro Danny and the caregivers, to review their progress of the application their newly acquired knowledge and skills at their Homes, helped build confidence. The session also solicited feedback on the training undertaken.

The follow-up session was another successful programme by the SSV in 2013.

## Visitation projects of SSVP Selangor

Visitation is an important aspect in the Rule and life of all Vincentians. As such, Vincentians visit families whom we work/journey with on a regular basis. They are normally preceded by members gathering together to listen to the word of God and praying together, so that we will be more open to encountering Christ among the poor, marginalised and suffering whom we visit. To further develop this important aspect of visitation, the State Council of Selangor, together with our respective Conferences, have arranged visits to the 12 different project Homes and Service Centres in Selangor. In Selangor, we have 12 projects that serve the needs of the poor. Another objective of our visit is to enable the members of the various conferences to learn more of the projects done by their sister Conferences; and to expose the projects to our donors, benefactors and general public. It also gives an opportunity for the various Conferences to know the various different projects and to channel appropriately people who approach with different needs.

The first project visited was Rumah Ozanam, Batu Arang, Rawang - Home for women and children living with HIV/AIDS. During the visit, the guests were able to understand the operation of the Home and the stigma that is faced by the innocent victims due to lack of understanding by the public. The Home is operated with the help of committed volunteers, staff and SSVP members from the Conference of St Jude. The residents in the home consist of infants, children, mothers and single ladies. We also have a mix of local residents and migrants/refugees referred to by the hospitals and the UNHCR.

The Second Chance Community Home (SCCH), operated by the Conference of Holy Family Kajang, was the second Home which was visited; it is a home for parolees and discharged prisoners. Very often the parolees and former prisoners have difficulty readjusting into normal life as often they are denied the chance to start their lives afresh. At this Home, they are not prejudged by their past but are instead given opportunities and guidance to earn a living and move on with their lives. The challenges they always face are lack of job opportunities and rejection from family and relatives. The Home has also successfully enabled some of them to operate their own small businesses.

The Ozanam Service Centre at Desa Coalfields, Sungei Buloh was another project which created the opportunity for all to visit. The project managed by the SSVP State Council of Selangor provides services like free tuition, computer and kindergarten classes for the young children living nearby. Besides that, the Centre mainly assists by solving basic issues of the community such as obtaining identification cards, birth certificates, medical cards, medical check ups and job placements. The Centre located in a rural area, far from city, has successfully assisted many people around the area with the help of dedicated staff and volunteers.

As a result of our visitations so far, many of the parishioners, benefactors, volunteers including many members of the Society in Selangor are now more aware of the larger role of the Society in advancing social advocacy among the poor. Many of them understand and are motivated to learn that although our individual capabilities or resources may be limited, we can indeed become more effective instruments of God by pooling and sharing our resources together. The matrix below summarises the 12 projects run by the Selangor State Council not including the ad-hoc and long term aid that we continue to provide in shelter, medical, education and food sustenance throughout the state to more than 200 families whom we journey with.

Projects	Managing Conference	Focus/specialisation	
1	Rumah Ozanam Batu Arang	St Jude, Batu Arang	Shelter for women and children inflicted with HIV/AIDS
2	Second Chance Community Home	Holy Family, Kajang	A half-way home for men released from prison and on parole
3	Rumah Keluarga Kami	Holy Family, Kajang	Orphans, abused and underprivileged children
4	Rumah Kanak-Kanak Impian	St Ignatius, Petaling Jaya	Orphans, abused and underprivileged children for boys (ages 7 to 12 years) and girls (ages 7 to 18 years)
5	Rumah Ozanam, Petaling Jaya	Holy Trinity, Petaling Jaya	Orphans, abused and underprivileged children
6	Ozanam Education Centre	Assumption, Petaling Jaya	Kindergarten cum day-care centre for underprivileged children
7	Rumah Pengajian Xavier	St. Francis Xavier, Petaling Jaya	Education centre cum boarding home for secondary school boys
8	Rumah Ozanam Klang (St Bernadette's Home for Girls)	St. Anne, OLL and Holy Redeemer, Klang	Underprivileged children for girls (ages 4 to 12)
9	Rumah SVP Klang	Our Lady of Lourdes Klang	Boys between ages of 5 to 12 from families that face challenges to provide a suitable environment for study.
10	OSC Port Klang * (on temporary hold to revisit approach).	St Anne, Port Klang	- Assist with documentation (e.g. identity card, birth certificate, SOCSO and insurance) - Youth development
11	OSC Sri Sentosa	Assumption, Petaling Jaya/ St. Francis Xavier/St Ignatius	- Provide tuition/education - Job placement - Specific medical programme - Empowerment programs.
12	OSC Coalfields, Sungei Buloh	State Council of Selangor	