

What happens after the initial application?

Twinning has been described as a lingering labor of love. It may take 3 to 6 months, or longer, to establish a twinning. Patience, and persistence in maintaining contact, will support the process.

Twinning is meant to help people to help themselves, so they will not always be dependant on you. After a period of time, try to establish a self-help program with your twin, to move our twinning partners toward self-sufficiency, and to better help the poor.

A twinning report is due on March 31 of each year. These reports are submitted to your provincial/regional twinning chair.

What can you do as an individual Vincentian?

Prayer is the key aspect of all twinning activity, and members are asked to pray regularly for each other, because without God's help, nothing will be achieved.

You can urge your conference or other conferences or councils, to participate in a twinning activity.

Conclusion, from International Council General Guidelines related to Foreign Twinning

“ There is a need to create a new culture of international solidarity and cooperation, where all - particularly the wealthy nations and private sector - accept responsibility for an economic model which serves everyone. There should be no more postponements of the time when the poor Lazarus can sit beside the rich man to share the same banquet and be forced no more to feed on the scraps that fall from the table (cf. Lk. 16: 19-31) Extreme poverty is a source of violence, bitterness and scandal, and to eradicate it is to do the work of justice and therefore the work of peace. (Incarnationis mysterium, par. 12, Pope John Paul II, November 29, 1998)

Excerpts from SSVV National Council Twinning Guidelines

For More Information on Twinning Contact your local SSVV at:

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The Society of St. Vincent de Paul National Council of Canada



www.ssvp.ca

Twining is....

... a sharing of our Society's prayers, contact and resources with conferences and councils with less. It is a 'special work' of the Society, one of fraternal union and sharing. We are able to make a difference to our twinned brothers and sisters, and fulfill our spiritual yearning to share with the poor.

Twining is decision by an aggregated conference or instituted council to assist in alleviation the suffering of those persons outside their area, who are being served by other Vincentians. The three types of twinning are: External - with another country; Internal - within Canada; and Pre Aggregation Twining (PAT) - with a conference under development in a Mission area of Canada.

Why would we want to twin ?

- We want to forge links with other members in the Society in different countries, both spiritually and materially, through prayer, correspondence and financial assistance.
- We want to pursue our Vincentian vocation to reach the poor, wherever they are. Twining emphasizes the universality of the Society and enables us to be a witness of Christian charity in action



What is essential For a successful twinning?

Prayer

Twining forms community of prayer with our Vincentian brothers and sisters, to sustain each other and the poor we serve. Two examples of realizing this union are; including prayers for the intentions of all members of the Vincentian family; and offering of a Mass by both conferences on a mutually designated day.

Correspondence

A regular exchange of correspondence between twins will strengthen the bonds of understanding and friendship. Mutual communication can be about respective experience, local area and interests, membership and personal matters, including photographs. It is essential that you receive a reply to your correspondence on a regular basis

Financial and Material Assistance

Financial assistance at regular intervals is the usual method of helping a twinned Conference or Council. Specific policies and guidelines for amounts and transfers are practiced in Canada. Material assistance, such as clothing, tools, and equipment can be sent, with consideration of government regulations for secure and lawful movement of such donations.

What steps would you take, as a representative for your conference or council, to establish twinning?

Application forms are available from your provincial/regional twinning chair, from the Canadian National Council secretary, or the National website-www.ssvp.ca Completed forms are forwarded to the Canadian National Council secretary. Available details about your twinned Conference or Council will be sent to you, along with guidelines and transmittal forms.

External twinning

External twinning can only be established with conference and councils in Columbia, Cuba, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica and Peru. Funds are sent to the Canadian National Council secretary payable to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul National Council, along with a completed external transmittal form. (All funds that are to be sent out of our country must be sent through National Council to ensure security and accountability.) These funds are then forwarded to the National Council of the twinned country. You may correspond with your twin at any time, but should not send more funds until you have received a reply to your initial correspondence and financial assistance. Vincentians would violate their duty of accountability owed to the donors of the Society if they were to "twin" with a person, group or organization that was not a member of SSVp.

Internal and PAT twinning

For internal twinning, funds can be sent directly to the twinned Conferences and Councils within Canada, using an internal transmittal form. Invoices for PAT twins (developing conferences in Mission areas) are paid by the aggregated conference.