



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME

TWINNING GUIDELINES

Definition

[The] direct link between two Conferences or Councils, consisting of sharing prayer, a profound friendship and material resources, is called twinning. [Rule 4.1]

Philosophy/Approach

The Society's funds must be handled with the utmost care, prudence and generosity. Money must not be hoarded. [Rule 3.14] Conference balances generally should not exceed what they expect to spend during an average quarter. Surplus funds should be shared generously with more needy Conferences or the special works of the District Council. [Manual, Ch2, p26]

- Conferences should spend their own funds first, seeking twinning only when they are financially unable to support the needs of a neighbor.
- When twinning is needed, Conferences should attempt to twin with other Conferences in their own District.
- If twinning with local Conferences is not sufficient, Conferences should seek twinning from their District President*.
 - If twinning is needed across Districts, requests should only be made by a District President to another District President.
- If twinning with local Conferences and the District is not sufficient, Conferences should seek twinning with the Council*.
- Conferences with funds which exceed a quarter's worth of expenses should consider sharing those funds with more needy Conferences without waiting for a formal request.

***Conferences more than 2 quarters behind in submitting CAR reports to the Council office will not be eligible for District or Council funds or programs.**

Types of Twinning

Twinning promotes spirituality, deep friendship, solidarity, and mutual help. Funds and other material resources can be provided to enable a Conference or Council to help local families. Even more important is support given through prayer, as well as through mutual communication regarding what has been accomplished and what is happening among Vincentians in each area, including news about persons and families. [Rule 4.1.1]

- Spirituality: Shared prayer/liturgies, requests for prayers for members/neighbors in need.
- Friendship: Events, District meetings, trainings, liturgies, shared stories and experiences.
- Service: People, Time, Money
 - People – home visits in other Conferences, special works (e.g. food pantry) support
 - Time – Training, sharing experiences, assisting in other ways
 - Money
 - Inter-Conference (within/outside District) to support neighbors in need, special works (e.g. food pantry)
 - Council (e.g. Disaster support)
 - Domestic or International disaster relief, special works, or project support

Elizabeth Barbieri, President

John Foppe, Executive Director