



International Association of Charities - Vincentian Family

ACTING TOGETHER – AGAINST ALL FORMS OF POVERTY

AIC UK is part of the 150,000 strong International group of, primarily, women whose spirituality is rooted in Vincentian tradition. Begun in 1617 by St Vincent De Paul, the Confraternities of lay volunteers help the disadvantaged in society. Groups became the Ladies of Charity – a name that many countries still use today under the AIC umbrella. Groups in ABBEY WOOD, BEXLEY, DARLINGTON, GLASGOW, MILL HILL & PECKHAM.

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AUTUMN 2016 NEWSLETTER



Sr Mary Timmons DC has tendered her resignation as our Spiritual Director. She has competing priorities, and we greatly appreciate how much effort she made juggling all manner of situations to be with us. We are very grateful to Sr Mary for her care as well as her spiritual direction over the past three years. Very notable has been her presentations helping us deepen our Vincentian spirituality and heritage, and our 12 Reflections which we all use frequently. As recently as May, we enjoyed a Day Retreat led by Sister. Thank you Sister Mary – we'll keep in touch!



Bexley Group

Saturday Friends project volunteers were invited by the Chaplains Fr Padraic and Sr Bernie to spend St Vincent's Feast Day in The Passage. The Faith Room (photo here) is part of the refurbished building which has nutrition, health, education and work opportunities services for over 180 daily homeless. The volunteers also took their homeless friends to Worth Abbey and Rochester on Saturday outings.

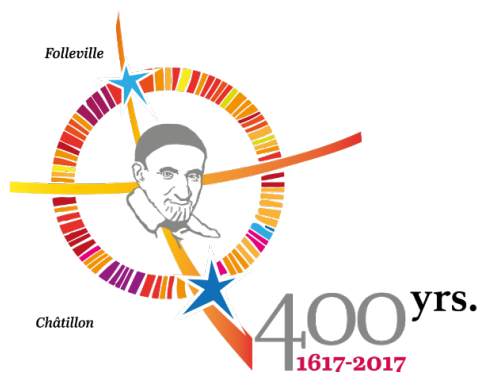


Fortunately, Sr Ellen Flynn DC, the Provincial of the Daughters of Charity has appointed another Sister to be our Spiritual Advisor. Sr Bernadette Ryder is originally from Manchester and has worked throughout the UK on a number of missions. For the past few years, she has been the Sisters' Archivist at Provincial House, and happily was willing to help with our AIC UK Archives.

Here you see her putting the finishing touches to one of the boxes which has been expertly archived using specialist equipment and methods.

We are indeed fortunate that Sr Ellen Flynn has agreed to house our AIC UK Archives in the ambient atmosphere of Provincial House, and both Sr Bernadette and I are finalising the cataloguing within the next few weeks.

Sr Bernadette has a keen eye for archiving professionally and during really dusty parts of sorting the older records, we both wore face masks and purple gloves! Yes, that's me behind the mask! Welcome Sr Bernadette and thank you so much for your support!



400 years of the Vincentian Charism – our ethos, our values, our service to those in need. What a legacy! It is our AIC 400th Birthday in 2017 – a huge achievement! DATES FOR YOUR DIARY; 3 MASSES & GATHERINGS; London – 25th February. Liverpool 24th June, Carfin 30th September. Let us all gather in numbers to celebrate our birthday!



AIC PECKHAM Café Thrift
visited by AIC UK President 16th
October 16

I was happy to visit South London to meet with Hannah, Agat and Sabina who were on hand to show me round their very well stocked food and clothes banks – with Café and foot spa attached!

Yes! This unique enterprise called "Café Thrift" is a wonder!

Situated in the undercroft of the enormous former Franciscan Friary, the Vincentian Parish Priest, Fr Richard Diala CM has encouraged the 7 members of AIC Peckham to put their energies into a much needed local service. The arches of the subterranean cavern lend a great atmosphere to the Café, accompanied by gaily coloured table clothes.





Newly purchased tea and coffee urns as well as yummy cakes and biscuits complete the picture. I am sure the patrons of Café Thrift, cared for by the AIC ladies feel they are in an up-market establishment!

Only launched on the feast of St Vincent in September, the logistics of the food and clothes has taken a lot of work.

But such is the generosity of the parishioners, that AIC Peckham can donate some of their surplus food and clothes to the facility managed by the Sisters of Charity in Southwark Cathedral.

I was charmed to be met by some young ladies of the parish who are keen to help – maybe future AIC members!

TRAINING FOR AIC UK members

A Certificate and Diploma has been piloted by Sr Mary, Christine, Marlene and Dee and then edited which will help us as Christine Crump noted “On a personal note, I found the Diploma a very useful way to review my vincentian commitment and clarify and develop the work I am involved with to serve more effectively. Christine led on the English editing of the Diploma, supported by Marlene and Dee. As St.Vincent said, it is not enough to do good, we must do it well. No doubt we are all reflecting on how we can celebrate our 400th. Anniversary. **Would this not be a splendid way to mark the year?**

DETAILS SOON

Love and blessings to you all, Dee Mansi. President AIC UK

