

# SVP Twinnage Information for Conferences and Members



***“I would like to embrace the  
whole world in a network of charity.”***

**(Blessed Frédéric Ozanam)**



# What is Twinnage?

**Over 50 years ago, inspired by a plea from the Holy Father that the laity in the developed world should become more active in their support for those in the less developed countries, the International Twinnage scheme began.**

SVP England and Wales is twinned with India, Grenada, Guyana, Romania, Sudan and South Sudan. In keeping with the Society's principles, support is provided by members of the local SVP in each country on a person-to-person basis and each local SVP Conference decides how funds can be used most effectively to support those in need. This also helps ensure clear financial reporting and accountability.

# Why twin?

**The St Vincent de Paul Society was established to help Christians act on their need to serve and help their neighbour.**

Every member follows this when they make a visit or carry out other tasks in the name of the Society. Twinnage enables your Conference to extend this service beyond the confines of your parish community.

- Twinning enables your Conference and parish to experience what it means to be part of a global movement of love and Vincentian solidarity.
- When you twin with an overseas Conference you help the SVP to transform and sustain lives in some of the world's poorest communities.
- Some of the isolated families and individuals who benefit from Twinning would otherwise be destitute and would struggle to survive.
- As your bonds of friendship with your twin develop, your understanding of another culture and the wider Society will enrich your lives and the life of your parish.
- Your twin's experience will help your parish learn about the realities of life for people in another part of the world and how they support people in need and tackle poverty in their own community.

## What does it involve?



### There are three parts to successful Twinning:

- **A prayerful and spiritually based link:** It is important that the members of the twin Conference, and those they work to support, are prayed for regularly. This will include prayers at every Conference meeting, but can include other prayers and most especially having a Mass offered for the twin Conference. There may also be times when specific events at the twin Conference call for some form of extra or special prayers.
- **Correspondence:** Where possible it is important to exchange letters (or e-mails if possible) at least twice a year to maintain contact, share information and learn. Messages received should be shared with all members of the Conference so that every member is involved and feels part of the world-wide Vincentian family.
- **Financial support:** Twinning generally requires a regular commitment to send financial support to help the regular activities of the twin, specifically the support of the adopted families of the twinned Conference.

## How long does a twin last?

There is no defined period. When the twin Conference overseas achieves financial self-sufficiency, or should they cease to function for any reason, an alternative twin will always be offered.

Should the financial twinning link come to an end, for example when the receiving Conference is financially self-sufficient, the friendship and spiritual bonds can continue. Conferences and members are encouraged to maintain contact with and to continue to pray for the twin.

## How do I get involved?

Please contact your Central Council Twinning Officer and complete the application form at the back of this leaflet. An individual or family can also sponsor a twin, but this must be done in the name of a Conference or Council.

## For more information:

For more information on Twinning visit [www.twinning.org.uk](http://www.twinning.org.uk)

# Application to be twinned with an overseas Conference

Please complete and return this form to your local Twinnage Officer.

**(BLOCK CAPITALS & DARK INK ONLY, PLEASE)**

Conference Name	<input type="text"/>
Town	<input type="text"/>
District Council	<input type="text"/>
Central Council	<input type="text"/>
Correspondent's Name	<input type="text"/>
Correspondent's Address	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text"/>

**Costs of twinning:** The annual cost of twinning with a Conference reflects local conditions in each country and is reviewed from time to time. Please check with your local Twinning Officer or visit the Twinnage website ([www.twinnage.org.uk](http://www.twinnage.org.uk)) for the most up to date information. The current costs are:

**India, Guyana, Sudan and South Sudan: £150 | Grenada: £200 | Romania: £250**

## We, the members of this Conference, hereby promise to:

Pray for our Twinned Conference at each meeting

Correspond with them at least twice a year

Send  every year to our Twin in   
via our Central Council Twinnage Officer

## Conference President/ Sponsor

Signature(s)  Date



Twinnage Officer contact details:



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**

The SVP will process your personal data in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation for the purposes of processing your donation, reclaiming any Gift Aid, including passing your personal data to HMRC and regulatory compliance. For full information about our data processing, please see our website at [www.svp.org.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.svp.org.uk/privacy-policy)