

What is Twinning?

Twining is a relationship that is developed between two Society of St. Vincent de Paul entities by which one Conference or Council gives financial assistance to another Conference or Council who is in need of financial resources. In other words, a Conference or Council with extra financial resources adopts a Conference or Council that is regularly short of resources. There is no designation from the Giving Conference or Council on how the funds are to be used. There are several places in the Manual that address International and Domestic Twinning.

Page 11: In fulfilling a resolution of the International Meeting of National Presidents of the Society in Paris, 1960, the Council General embarked on an extension and development program throughout the world. The idea of adopting Conferences (Twining) between nations was initiated. This later led to self-help projects, assistance in times of national disaster, and, finally, Council to Council adoptions.

Page 25: Domestic twinning: sharing of the membership and material resources of a more fortunate Conference with a needier one locally.

Page 48: The Council General promotes bonds among Society units and members worldwide, particularly between wealthy and needy countries, the resulting linkage being known as Twinning. It serves to centralize Vincentian resources on behalf of the victims of catastrophes such as floods, earthquakes, droughts, and historical upheavals. It also establishes liaison and cooperation with other international charitable works and programs and with the various international aid organizations.

Page 49: The Society is a Christian family whose members share their resources. Twinning links brother and sister Vincentians in a special way; it cuts through language and cultural barriers. Through Twinning, Councils and Conferences implement the theological virtue of charity, heighten awareness of the catholicity of the Church, transcend provincialism, and fulfill the Church's preferential option for the poor. An example for Vincentians, individually and corporately, is the story of the widow's mite (Mk 12:44-44). Jesus tells his disciples to observe the poor widow: "They gave from their surplus wealth; she gave from her want." In Twinning, Vincentians strive to give selflessly, not just from their surplus funds but from their want. Current Twinning Guidelines are available from the National Office.

Page 67: **The poor have the right to dignity and hope:**

Vincentians practice solidarity through domestic and international Twinning. We help the victims of disasters and provide reverential burial, when needed.

What is Co-Pay? Co-Pay is different from Twinning.

Twining is intended for one Conference or Council to give financial assistance to another Conference or Council with no designation made for the use of the funds. For example, a well-to-do Conference will give \$500.00 per quarter to another Conference for whatever purpose they need. Co-Pay is when Conference A makes an appeal to another Conference(s) or Council for contributions to help pay a bill that Conference A cannot handle on its own. The Conferences or Councils that respond to this request are giving funds for a particular person or family. Both Conference A and Conference B must develop a case record for the payment. This is serving those in need – not twinning.