



Paris, 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2016

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FOR THE ATTENTION OF NATIONAL,  
SUPERIOR OR ASSIMILATED COUNCILS

Dear Presidents

We are pleased to send you today the new aggregation request form, for you to pass on to your Conferences together with the explanatory notes.

These documents are now available from our website and can be downloaded from:  
[www.ssvpglobal.org/Documentation](http://www.ssvpglobal.org/Documentation)

#### **A. NEW AGGREGATION REQUEST FORM**

This new form consists of the following parts:

- Identity of Conference
- Geographical location
- Attachment of Conference to Councils
- The members
- Brief activity report

The idea is to give a clear picture of the work and life of each Conference. (As recommended in the *Rule of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul* B.R.7 and 18).

#### **B. WHY A NEW FORM?**

Our experience has led us to realise that if aggregation is to be meaningful, certain points must be specified and other elements, previously considered superfluous, are needed.

It should also be pointed out that aggregation is awarded to Conferences **that visit people in need, and that meet regularly** (cf. Rule, Part III BR.1 and commentary).

The new aggregation form has also been introduced as a result of the new database installed at the offices of the International Council General (CGI) in Paris, which has to be expanded to cover the various aspects of the Society's work around the world (especially Twinnage). So the purpose of the aggregation form in particular is to report on the various aspects of the Conference itself (spirituality, training, work).

#### **C. PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED**

From now on, please note that any request for aggregation sent to Council General International (CGI) will proceed as follows:

1. **Use of new form**
2. Receipt and consideration of requests for aggregation by CGI Paris.
3. Aggregation of new applications by the Permanent Section of Council General International

**From now on, please distribute** the new forms attached and do everything you can to ensure you comply with the new procedure.

We hope that by the next international assembly in June 2016, this will have been finally adopted by everyone.

#### **D. WHO DECIDES ON AGGREGATION**

Aggregation means that the Conference becomes a full member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. It is therefore an important step, traditionally declared by the "Permanent Section", the collegial body of international officers who meet twice a year.

#### **E. END OF AGGREGATION**

Like any human group, the Conference has a lifespan. Its birth is marked by aggregation, but there is also an end when it ceases to work. If the Superior Council receives no reports from a Conference after a number of years, or if it is told one way or another of the disappearance of an aggregated Conference, it must notify **Council General** of this. (cf. Rule, Part II, article 6.2.2 and commentary).

That is why, **in order to fulfil the Rule**, we will send you a list of aggregated Conferences in your country, and ask you to make sure the information is up to date, reporting to us any aggregated Conferences **that are now inactive**.

With your cooperation, we will therefore be able to **achieve the aim expressed by the Rule**: "*to maintain an accurate picture of the Society's true dimensions at all times*". (International Statutes, Commentary on article 6.2.2).

#### **TO CONCLUDE**

Dear Presidents, we understand that all this involves major changes to our present standard practices. That is why we are ready to answer any questions you may have on this subject.

Article 1.6 of the Rule tells us, "*The Society strives to renew itself constantly*," and we rely on the goodwill of every one of you to make this necessary adjustment in the area of aggregations.

With fraternal regards, in Saint Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam



Julien Spiewak  
Secretary General



Léon Even  
Consultant for Aggregations-Institutions

Attachments:     - New aggregation request form  
                      - Explanatory note