FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

* ***How does a conference apply for a new twin overseas and how long does it take?***
* The conference President makes request to their Central Council (CCTO) Twining Officer who applies to their State OPDC Coordinator who request the list of available overseas twins from National Council Australia (NCA) OPDC. The twin list will then be sent back through the channels to the conference who make their choice and send back through the same channel.
* ***What are the costs involved for a conference to support a twin?***
* Yearly cost is $320 paid as 4 quarterly payments of $80. Also Encouraged are 2 gift payments: one at Easter (paid in January with 1st quarter payment) and next one at Christmas (paid in July with 3rd quarterly payment). The gift payments can be up to $200 each. These can be set up as automatic deductions from your conference and are paid through your Central Council to State Office.
* ***Can our Conference send funds or materials goods directly to our twin?***
* Absolutely not! It has taken several years for St Vincent de Paul to get the Tax deductibility status. This is a great benefit to us and SVDP do not want to lose it. There is a process SVDP have to go through for transferring funds which goes from our National Council to the overseas National Council which must be adhered to or we will lose this deductibility.
* ***Is there any way our Conference can assist more if there is a need?***
* Invite them to propose a project that they need. This is one way that your conference can support them in addition to the quarterly remittances. Projects can be up to $2,000. Projects must be sustainable e.g. a chicken or goat project. They will need to go through their respective Councils to their National Council for approval before it goes to you.

*The Conference projects have a limit of $2000 without having to get an approval from the Regional Council. A conference can take a project to up to $5000, but in this case needs the approval of the Regional Council.*

*These are called: Small Projects. Larger Projects can go up to $30,000 and usually are financed by the Central Councils. When a Conference decides to finance a project up to $2000, it needs only to ask the Central (Diocesan) Council to send the money to the State office, giving all the details and have the amount debited to the subscribing Conference*.

* ***Our Conference has not heard from our twin for over 12 months and we have written a couple of times, what can we do?***
* Your Conference can ask for a **Status check** by asking your CC twining officer to follow up this request. The CC Twining Officer contacts SC Coordinator who sends a letter to NCA. Requesting them for a status check

of the O/S twin. The letter will state that if no communication has been received within 90 days, 12 month’s notice to surrender the twin shall automatically be issued effective from the date the status check request was sent.

* ***Does our conference keep paying quarterly payments during the 12 months?***
* Yes, payments keeping happening for 12 months from the date of request and if no communication is received, payment stops then.
* ***What happen if our twin writes in their own language?***
* Letters can be translated using an internet program called Google translate where you scan your letter and receive the English version. This can be used to put your letters into your twin’s language. Sometimes there are similar national personalities in your community who can translate for you.
* ***Our conference has raised funds for their twin. What do I do with this?***
* The funds should be banked through your CC. These funds will go towards your quarterly costs or gifts to your overseas twin via the CC payment to SC at the appropriate time.
* ***How long is the conference commitment to its twin?***
* The twinning commitment has a 10-year rule, brought in at Panasco 2014. After 10 years the sustainability of the overseas twin needs to be determined and if all parties agree the relationship stops and a new overseas twins is chosen.
* ***What is the role of a Twinning Officer?***
* The Twinning Officer is responsible for ensuring that their twinning relationship is maintained in accordance with the International Twinning Manual.
* ***How long is the term of the Twinning Officer?***
* The Twinning Officer’s term is aligned with their Conference President’s term. Also the Central Council Twin Officer is aligned with the Central Council President’s term
* ***Where can I get more information on twinning and becoming a twin?***
* Contact your Central Council Twinning Officer or Central Council Office for more information on twinning and becoming a twin.

QUESTIONS THAT ARE ALWAYS NO

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO

NO NO

* Can we give Christmas & Easter gifts instead of quarterly payments?
* Can we fund a project through our parish?
* Can our conference use ER funding monies to pay our twinning commitments?
* Can we visit our overseas twin without informing anyone.
* Can we give funds in Vinnies name when we are on a personal trip?
* Can we request information about the students we assist in the AAS program?
* Can we send money overseas ourselves

If a disaster happens in our twin’s area?