

PAST

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVdP) was founded in 1833 by Frederic Ozanam, a 20 year old student of the Sorbonne University in Paris.



Frederic Ozanam

In answer to a challenge for Christians to "Practice what you Preach", Frederic and a group of fellow students started to seek out and visit the poor of Paris in their homes, taking them bread, clothes, firewood, their friendship and their concern. This small group took as their Patron the Great French Priest, who alerted the world to social problems, St. Vincent de Paul.

Similar groups (Conferences) began in Paris, then in the rest of France and eventually spread throughout the world with the object of visiting, for the love of God, those in need.

PRESENT

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an International Catholic society of volunteers who work to assist those in need, seeking to find the forgotten, the suffering or deprived. Our quest is to see Christ's Face in all people.

The ministry operates by personal interviews and home visits which are primarily arranged through telephone contacts. We receive our funding to assist with financial crisis from church POOR BOXES, periodic special parish offerings and many other generous contributors.

Typically we able to assist over 1300 people in their time of need with utilities and various immediate emergencies in their lives. Not least we also offer a place of personal support, encouragement and shared prayer.

FUTURE

No matter how good the Welfare Services provided by the State may be, the work to which the SVdP is called will always be necessary. The giving of oneself in friendship to another can only be a **personal encounter**. All people search for peace. So many still face the horror of the street, domestic violence, unsupportive economies, as well as war and ethnic hatred worldwide. People are also looking for peace within themselves, needing assurance of their worth.

The Gospels tell us again and again that true peace is possible only if we live as Christ showed us by His own life.

The work of the SVdP is the Gospel message in action.

I was Hungry, I was thirsty,
I was a stranger, I was naked,
I was sick, I was in prison,
AND YOU CARED.

WHAT MEMBERSHIP INVOLVES

Regular hour-long meetings (bi-monthly) are scheduled typically twice per month.

Short prayers are said before and after the meetings to remind members that the motive for their work is the love of God. While that external mission is the focus, the internal mission of each Conference is the sanctity of its members.

At the meetings the contacts our members have made are discussed, along with necessary action for the future. All our visits with clients are done in the company of another member, so a calendar for the month's work is necessary. Other operational matters are discussed, like funding status, ideas for helping clients, etc.

The business of the meeting is strictly confidential. Meetings have always been considered essential to the spirit of the Society. They ensure efficiency and perseverance in our work and foster in us in a bond of friendship.

AN INVITATION

The SVdP is easy to join. There is no initiation procedure. No special qualifications are required, other than the desire to join with others to help those in need, for the love of God.

Christians have an obligation to serve others. Participants in an SVdP Conference openly tell each other that they feel more rewarded than the people they seek to help.

This service can be done as an individual, but is often better accomplished by being a member of a Society that provides a wide range of opportunities.

If the Society of St. Vincent de Paul appeals to you and you want to learn more about it, please call **755-4188** and leave your name and phone number. You can also send an email to stjSVdPaul@gmail.com.



St. Vincent de Paul

St Vincent de Paul

Bradenton, FL

755-4188

stjSVdPaul@gmail.com

www.SVdP-manatee.org

I wish I could help...

If you have said these words to yourself - you can, whatever your age, whatever your skill.

All we ask is a little of your time.

