

## **Special Works of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul**

These special works include:

- Twinning: sharing resources to help other Conferences and Councils both in Canada and around the world.
- Emergency Relief: Funds forwarded to Conferences in disaster zones to assist members in recovery efforts.
- Community Homes
- Affordable Housing
- Prison Ministry
- Soup Kitchens
- Hospital Visitations
- Food Banks
- Summer Camps
- Refugee Welcoming
- Visiting the Elderly/Shut-ins
- Help with school work
- Outreach programs
- Community Stores
- Programs for mentally challenged
- Advocacy
- Drop-in Centres

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

As a volunteer you can assist by:

- Donating gently used clothing, household goods or appliances
- Donate time at Society's stores in local stores
- Donate your time and expertise to repair donated goods
- Donate skills to help stock, paint, clean stores
- Help our food banks with gifts of food, time and energy
- Donate money to support projects
- Donate time to assist with special events such as Christmas baskets

**Society of Saint Vincent de Paul  
National Council of Canada  
is located at:**

**2463 Innes Road  
Ottawa ON K1B 3K3**

Tel: (613) 837-4363

Toll-free: 1-866-997-7787  
(1-866-997-SSVP)

Fax: (613) 837-7375

E-mail : [national@ssvp.ca](mailto:national@ssvp.ca)

**Local Contact to become a member,  
volunteer or for further information:**

# **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul**



**Serving the poor in Canada  
since 1846**

## **A Brief History**

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is an international lay Catholic organization founded in 1833 by young 20 year old Frédéric Ozanam and his university companions. Ozanam was beatified on August 22, 1997. His feast day is celebrated on September 9.

Blessed Frédéric is recognized as the main founder of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. He was that rare individual of intellectual genius and extraordinary holiness. He was a husband, father, professor and researcher, journalist and author, apologist and defender of the faith. Above all he personified the Good Samaritan

Dr. Joseph Painchaud, a companion of Frédéric, established the Society in Canada in 1846 in Quebec City.

The International Confederation has its offices in Paris France where the first Conference was founded. There are now close to one million members who work to serve the needs of the poor in over 144 countries.

Catholic in character, the Society is open to all who wish to live their faith by loving and serving their neighbour. Faithful to its founder, the Society constantly strives to renew and adapt itself to the changing conditions of the world.

## **Patron and Patroness of the Society**

The Patron of the Society is Saint Vincent de Paul (1581 – 1660). Pope Leo XIII named him patron of works of charity. He is a most suitable example to follow.

The Society was placed under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Each year on December 8th, members renew their request to Our Blessed Lady that she guide them in their charitable works.

### **Mission and Values**

The mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

The mission of the Society implies that as Vincentians we:

- See Christ in anyone who suffers
- Come together as a family
- Have personal contact with the poor
- Help in all possible ways

### **The Motto of the Society:**

**Serviens In Spe  
To Serve in Hope**

## **The work of the Society**

We are called to alleviate suffering and its causes, serving everyone regardless of race, creed, gender, opinion or age. As Vincentians we understand that poverty does not necessarily involve being in need of material goods.

The Society's main service throughout the world is home visits to the poor.

*Mathew 25:64-40...For I was hungry....*

Vincentians also strive to address the root causes of poverty and injustice by acting as “the voice of the poor”.

### **The Society in Canada**

There are Society Conferences in all provinces and the N.W. Territories and the Nunavut in Canada. These Conferences can be found in parishes, schools, colleges, universities and workplaces.

### **Membership in the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul**

Membership is open to all who commit to the Mission of the Society and its Values, and are interested in developing their spiritual life. Vincentians attend meetings, pray with and for each other, visit the poor, and serve in any way they can as “no work of charity is foreign to the Society”.