

Introduction to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul





OPENING PRAYER

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- **Loving Creator,**

We ask for the insight to understand
the needs of people today
and grasp the complexity of their
situations.

- **The hungry have a right to food,**

the homeless to shelter,
and the ill to health care.

- **Do not allow our fear, ignorance, or
pride**

to limit the action of your Spirit,
nor prevent your Divine creativity
within us, from bearing fruit.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Agenda

Our mission

Who are we?

What are we?

Three Essential Elements of the Society

Food Pantry

Casework

Helpline

Where do you fit in?

VIRTUS Training₃





Our Mission

A network of friends,
inspired by Gospel values,
growing in holiness,
and building a more just world
through personal relationships with and service to
people in need.

How did we start? x • o



"The Society"



Intro to SVdP

"The Society"



How did we start?

- Founded in 1833 in Paris.
- Founded by Frederic Ozanam
- Frederic Ozanam was only 20 years old – a student at university.
- He named the organization after St. Vincent de Paul because of Vincent's work with the poor.



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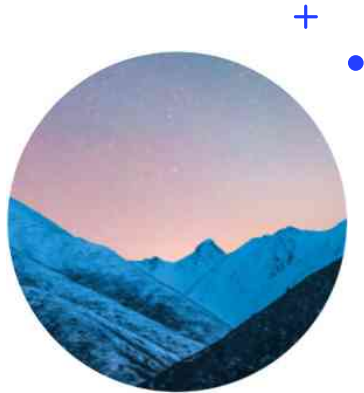
Who are we today?

- Today we are the largest Catholic lay organization in the **WORLD**.
 - 155 countries
 - 800,000 members
 - 1.5 million volunteers
- **YOU** are part of a very large organization, working for God. Showing others the goodness and generosity of God. The Lord is working through you.



What are we?

- Not-for-profit organization [501(c)(3) tax status]
- Locally we are all volunteers. No one in the Chantilly conference gets paid. We work mostly out of our homes.
- No office. No overhead costs.
- Funded mostly by charitable contributions from the parish (and some grants)
- More than 98% of our funds go to those we help – our “Neighbors”.



The Three Essential Elements of SVdP

- Spirituality
- Friendship
- Service



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• **Conference Life**

- Small parish-based group
- We meet on the 2nd Thursday and 4th Wednesday each month.
- Active [Full] members attend meetings regularly and participate in conf. work.
- Associate members participate in special works and events. Strongly encouraged to attend meetings.



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Home Visits

- Personal encounters with our neighbors in their homes
- Compassion, information, resources, and a little financial assistance.
- The biggest thing we bring to the poor is HOPE!
- We visit in pairs and honor confidentiality when listening to their stories.



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Transformation

- A Vincentian life is a life based on Gospel teaching and following Jesus' example.
- “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.” (Matt 20:28)
- “Whatever you did for the least of my brothers, you did for me.” (Matt 25:36-46)
- By serving the poor, Vincentians are transformed through Christ and cultivate a servant's heart.



Vincentian Virtues

- Simplicity
- Humility
- Gentleness
- Selflessness
- Zeal



Food Pantry

Average monthly statistics

- Families served: 184
- Pounds of food distributed: approx. 7,000
- Costs per month: \$5,000—7,000, plus donations in food box



Casework

Emergency assistance for:

- Rent
- Utilities (gas, water, electric)
- Other

Monthly averages:

- 43 families served
- Approx. \$17,000 of assistance



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Helpline

- Neighbors call in to a phone line and leave a message.
- Helpline worker listens to the message. Calls Neighbor for clarification, if necessary.
- Helpline worker inputs data into database: name, address, phone number, request.
- Caseworker picks up the case, and works on it.



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Background Check and VIRTUS Training

The Arlington Diocese now requires:

- a background check (police report, etc.)
- And VIRTUS Training
- for adults working with children under the age of 18.

Why?

- To prevent, and respond to, child sexual abuse.



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How do we differ from other charities?

- Men and women who seek personal holiness through works of charity.
- We don't provide transactions; we create and nurture relationships.
- Our mission is clear: our ministry is a means for acquiring holiness.



Next Steps Want to Know More?

- More information on Helpline and Casework
- Explore other opportunities
 - **Young Vincentians** Groups (ages 13 to 18)
 - Communications: Website, Bulletin, Newsletter
 - **Special Events:** Coat Drive, Blue Envelope Project, Friends of the Poor Walk
 - **Committee Input** (5 committees)
 - Spirituality, Governance, Communication, Service and Delivery, Recruitment

Contact Sandy for more information: svdp.st.timz@gmail.com