



INTRODUCTION TO THE

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Faith in action. Friendship in service. Hope for our neighbors.

A modern, relatable overview for parishioners interested in serving with love.

St. Timothy Conference

All are welcome

2026





Opening Prayer

Loving Creator, help us notice the needs around us today.

Give us eyes to see people with compassion, patience, and humility — and courage to respond with love.

Amen.



“

Do not allow fear, ignorance, or pride to limit the action of your Spirit.

adapted from handout prayer

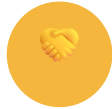


Today's Journey



Who are we?

A worldwide Catholic lay movement, lived locally through parish Conferences.



What do we do?

Food, helpline, casework, home visits, friendship, prayer, and practical support.



How can I help?

Choose a role that fits your gifts, schedule, and comfort level.

By the end, you should know the heart of SVdP — and one next step you could imagine taking.



How did we start?

Paris, 1833

A group of young Catholics were challenged:

“

What is the Church doing now for the poor?

the question that sparked action

Instead of debating charity, they started practicing it — visiting families, bringing help, and offering friendship.

**From a
question...
to a movement.**



Talk became service. Service became friendship. Friendship became hope.



What is a “Conference”?

A Conference is the local parish-based group that prays, plans, and serves together.



Small enough to know each other

Members build friendship and support one another.



Close enough to respond

Neighbors in need are often right here in our local area.



Flexible enough to serve

Different roles fit different gifts, comfort levels, and schedules.



Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

He was only about 20 years old — a university student — when the Society began.

- ✓ Founded in Paris in 1833 with other students and friends.
- ✓ Named the Society after St. Vincent de Paul, known for serving the poor.
- ✓ Believed faith should be visible through practical love.

Relatable takeaway

You do not need to be an expert to begin.

You just need a willing heart and a community to serve with.





We are part of something big

155

countries

800K

members

48K

Conferences

1.5M+

volunteers & collaborators

Translation: when you serve locally, you are also part of a worldwide family living the same mission.

Source: SSVP Global, current public overview.



St. Timothy Conference

A PRACTICAL MINISTRY WITH A PERSONAL HEART

What makes SVdP different?



Volunteer-led

Locally, the work is carried by volunteers who give time, prayer, and presence.



Low overhead mindset

The focus is keeping resources close to the people being helped.



Neighbor-centered

We serve people as neighbors, not as “cases.”



Home Visits

At the heart of our ministry. Vincentians visit neighbors in their homes, listen with compassion, and walk alongside them with dignity and hope.

**We bring food, resources, and emergency assistance —
but the bigger gift is hope.**



The Vincentian rhythm



Spirituality

We grow closer to Christ by meeting Him in our neighbors.



Friendship

We do not serve alone. We support one another as a Conference.



Service

We turn compassion into action: visits, food, help, and prayer.

This is not just our mission. It is a way to live the Gospel together.



Conference life

- ✓ We meet regularly for prayer, updates, decisions, and friendship.
- ✓ Active members participate in meetings and Conference work.
- ✓ Associate members support special works and events as they are able.
- ✓ The work is shared — no one person carries it alone.



Relatable version
Show up. Listen. Pray. Help.
Repeat.



Home visits

Vincentians meet neighbors in their homes with compassion, confidentiality, and respect. Every visit begins by listening, building trust, and recognizing the dignity of each neighbor.



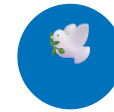
Listen first

We hear the neighbor's story before jumping to solutions.



Go in pairs

Two Vincentians visit together for safety, wisdom, and support.



Bring hope

Sometimes assistance is financial. Always, the biggest gift is dignity and hope.

“The biggest thing we bring to the poor is HOPE.”

from the original handout



Transformation

For our neighbors

- ✓ Food and practical support
- ✓ Emergency help at a hard moment
- ✓ Someone who listens with dignity

For Vincentians

- ✓ A deeper relationship with Christ
- ✓ A servant's heart
- ✓ A more concrete way to live the Gospel

“Whatever you did for the least of my brothers, you did for me.”

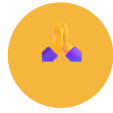


Vincentian virtues



Simplicity

Be real. Be clear. Be sincere.



Humility

Remember: we are companions, not saviors.



Gentleness

Meet stress with patience and kindness.



Selflessness

Put the neighbor's dignity first.



Zeal

Serve with energy, creativity, and joy.



Food Pantry

The food pantry turns parish generosity into real meals for local families.

184

families served monthly

~7,000

pounds of food distributed

\$5K–\$7K

monthly cost plus food donations

Local note: Food Pantry distribution is the 3rd Saturday of the month, 9–11 a.m., near the New Parish Hall.



Casework



Rent

Preventing a family from falling further behind.



Utilities

Helping keep lights, water, heat, or electricity on.



Other needs

Listening for what is really needed and what partners can help.

43

families served monthly

~\$17K

monthly assistance

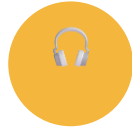


Helpline



1

Neighbor leaves a message



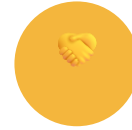
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Helpline worker listens and clarifies



3

Information is entered carefully



4

Caseworker follows up with next steps

Behind every voicemail is a person hoping someone will call back.



Safe ministry

Serving with love also means serving responsibly.



Background check

Required by the Arlington Diocese for eligible ministry roles.



VIRTUS training

Protects children and vulnerable people through awareness and prevention.



Why it matters

Trust is part of the mission — especially when working with families.

Clear training helps everyone feel safer, more prepared, and more confident.



Your next step

**Pick one way to try serving — then
come see where God leads.**



Learn more about Helpline or Casework

Start small. Ask questions.
Bring a friend.



Explore Food Pantry or special projects

Start small. Ask questions.
Bring a friend.



Help with communications or events

Start small. Ask questions.
Bring a friend.



Join a committee or leadership role

Start small. Ask questions.
Bring a friend.

Contact

svdp.st.timz@gmail.com

Ask about monthly
meetings, volunteer roles,
and how to get started.

**Together, we can bring
hope to our
neighbors.**