

September is SVP Awareness Month
The Society of St Vincent de Paul



Blessed Frederic Ozanam and the SVP

The SVP or Society of St Vincent de Paul was founded in Paris by Frederic Ozanam in 1833.

Frederic Ozanam was a French layman, deeply moved by the poverty and disorder that gripped Paris during the early stages of industrial revolution.

Frederic Ozanam and his companions formed a Catholic organisation of lay people devoted to individual holiness, personal contact with the poor, and the distribution of alms.

The new group took as its patron St Vincent de Paul and was organised in conferences on local levels; usually there was a conference in each parish. Eventually diocesan, national, and international councils formed the framework for the broader cooperative endeavours.

As urban poverty and social dislocation spread throughout Western society, the need for the work of the Society grew. The SVP expanded rapidly in France and eventually spread to 112 countries.

In 1997 Pope John Paul II Beatified Frederic Ozanam; during his time at university, Karol Wojtyla was himself a member of the SVP.

Here are some works from Blessed Frederic Ozanam

“The questions which is agitating the world today is a social one. It is a struggle between those who have nothing and those who too much. It is a violent clash of opulence and poverty which is shaking the ground under our feet. Our duty as Christians is to throw ourselves between the two camps in order to accomplish by love what justice alone cannot do.”



Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Today our Parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society is a group of volunteer parishioners who set out to help anyone in need.

The need is now greater than ever due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Can you help us by giving a financial donation or your time.

Here is what we are presently doing:

- We make 60 calls each month to the elderly and lonely.
- We provide meals for a family of 5 whose parents are out of work.
- We provide 30 meals each month to elderly and lonely parishioners.
- We pray for the sick.

If you can help, please contact us at stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk