



**Society of
Saint Vincent de Paul
Vancouver Island**

**New Member's Manual
Vancouver Island, B.C.**

Revised June 2008

**Welcome to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Of Vancouver Island**

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Welcome to the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

Dear Member:

Becoming a Vincentian is a way of living your faith, reaching out to the poor and those in need and of finding spiritual support and friendship from your fellow Vincentians. Your commitment to the charitable works of the Society is greatly valued and will make a real difference in the lives of those you serve.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Vancouver Island has developed a member booklet to assist our members. One purpose of this booklet is to provide new members with information about the background of the Society and the role of members, as well as describe practical details that will facilitate the work you will be doing to help the poor and marginalized in our community.

We encourage you to keep this booklet as a reference.

We hope and pray that your spiritual life will be enriched by your service to the poor. The person to person compassion and spirituality of each home visit is an essential part of our Society. The solidarity and friendship Vincentians extend to the most vulnerable in our communities is how we try to follow the example of Jesus, St. Vincent de Paul and Frederic Ozanam and give a sense of hope and the love of God to those we serve.

Vincentians strive for our own spiritual enrichment and salvation. It is not our purpose to convert our clients although we hope and pray that our contact with them will bear the fruit of a better life for each of them. This wish for a better life for our clients includes their physical, spiritual and emotional well-being as well as their financial circumstances.

Conference members are here to support each other, so please always feel free to discuss any and all aspects of

your home visits with your fellow Vincentians. This may take place at your regular conference meetings or by contacting your Conference President or other conference members with any questions, concerns or suggestions.

The Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a vital document that defines who we are and how we fulfill our role. The pursuit of justice as well as the provision of charity is of great importance to Vincentians. Our founder, Frederic Ozanam was one of the leading social activists of his day, a time portrayed by Victor Hugo in his epic of 1862, Les Miserables.

Vincentians take very much to heart Matthew 25:35 - 40

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me...truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

Praying with St. Vincent de Paul (McKenna, 1994, p. 62) includes this short prayer:

Loving God, let me see into the eyes of sick people, prisoners, those who are hungry and thirsty, and when I do, may I see you there, suffering in solidarity with them. Change my way of seeing; then strengthen my will to act with justice and charity.

As well as the direct work we do to serve the poor, there are many opportunities to use your unique gifts in this Ministry. Please consider volunteering in any of the many programs outlined in this booklet or participating on a committee that fits your interests and talents.

Volunteers are needed in the:

Social Concern Office
Stores and/or Sorting Centre
Housing
Ozanam Centre
Administration office

Welcome to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Standing Committees include the following:

Finance
Human Resource
Property Development
Advocacy
Social Concern
Archive
Youth

We encourage you to discuss opportunities to serve on a committee or in one of the programs with your Conference President or by contacting the administration office at 1-250-727-0007.

Your contribution to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Vancouver Island is deeply appreciated.

May God bless you as you serve Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

Mission & Values National Council of Canada

MISSION

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is:

To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

VALUES

The Mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul 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***
-

What is the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international fraternal organization of lay people who practice Christianity by helping those in need on a PERSON-to-PERSON basis.

Founded in Paris in 1833 by Frederic Ozanam, the Society was named after St. Vincent de Paul (1580-1660), a priest whose life was devoted to helping the poor and the underprivileged. It would be impossible to enumerate all the works of this servant of God. Charity was St. Vincent's predominant virtue. It extended to all classes of persons, from forsaken childhood to old age. The Sisters of Charity also owe the foundation of their congregation to St. Vincent. In the midst of the most distracting occupations his soul was always intimately united with God. Though honored by the great ones of the world, he remained deeply rooted in humility.

Since 1833, the Society has grown and is now present in 131 countries on 5 continents and has approximately 47,400 conferences with 590,000 active members.

The first conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Canada was founded in Quebec City by Dr. Joseph Painchaud in 1846. The first conference formed in Victoria was St. Andrew's Conference in 1916. By the end of 2001, there were more than 980 conferences and councils throughout Canada with 10,500 active members.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is the largest lay organization in the Catholic Church. Members of the Society are shaped, influenced and inspired by the Rule of the Society. The Rule was designed to provide a frame of reference and a spirituality that is recognized by the term "Vincentian". Conference members of the Society visit people in their homes who are in need. While home visits continue to be the fundamental social service of the members other programs and services that enhance the works of the Society are:

Special Works of the Society

(Locally, Regionally and Nationally)

Summer Camps	Visiting the elderly
Community Homes	Helping with School Work
Low Income Housing	Outreach Programs
Prison Apostolate	Community Stores
Refugee Welcoming	Counselling and referral
Immigrant Resettling	Drop-in Centres
Advocacy	Hospital Visitation
Soup Kitchens	Food Banks
Programs for the developmentally challenged	

Fundamental Principles for Vincentians

(excerpt from the "Rule")

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a Catholic lay organization of charity:

- By its constitution;
- In its composition;
- In its administration.

The primary goal and purpose of the Society, its members, staff, volunteers and benefactors is:

- To serve and to minister to all the poor, making no distinctions of gender, creed, or race;
- To promote their dignity in accordance with Christian values and the philosophy of the Society.

Vincentians, in serving the poor:

- Are living the message of the Gospel;
- Are transformed, through Christ, into His disciples;

Vincentians recognize that the service, the activities and the attachment to traditions, as expressed in the stated parameters of the Society, reflect the vision of:

- Our main founder, Frederic Ozanam;
- Our patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

Fundamental Principles for Vincentians

(excerpt from the "Rule")

Vincentians belong to a worldwide community, and members:

- Are drawn from every cultural and ethnic group;
- Are united by prayer and reflection;
- Take part in gatherings and meetings to organize and administer assistance whenever needed.

Vincentians work within the Society and also in collaboration with other people of good will to:

- Serve the poor;
- Discover and help redress situations of social injustice that cause poverty, suffering and need.

Vincentians believe that:

- That are serving Christ when they serve the poor;
- The activities of the Society reflect the spirit of Christ in promoting the reign of God.

Vincentians carry out their work keeping in mind that:

- They are the loving companions to their brothers and sisters;
- They are custodians of the earth in the protection of the environment;
- No work of charity is foreign to the Society.

Vincentians, through person-to-person contact:

- Serve in a spirit of love, humility and discretion;
- Are ready to serve when needed.

Who are the Poor?

(excerpt from the "Rule")

The word *poor* designates men, women and children who, either as individuals or as families are encountering difficulties in their lives. The poor may include:

- ◊ The homeless;
-

Who are the Poor?

(excerpt from the "Rule")

- ◇ Immigrants and refugees;
- ◇ Inmates and their families;
- ◇ Those with no source of income;
- ◇ Those searching for employment & those living alone with few resources;
- ◇ Those suffering physically or mentally;
- ◇ Those who are going through a strike or a lockout;
- ◇ Those abused physically, sexually or psychologically;
- ◇ The working poor who have problems making ends meet;
- ◇ Those enrolled in government financial assistance programs;
- ◇ Those who have a problem of dependency on drugs, gambling, alcohol, etc.

Working for Social Justice

(excerpt from the "Rule")

The Society is concerned not only with alleviating need but also with identifying the injustices that cause it. Therefore, it is committed to identifying the root causes of poverty and contributing to their elimination. In all its charitable actions there should be a search for justice.

Affirming the dignity of each human being as created in God's image, Vincentians envision a just society in which the rights, responsibilities and development of all people are promoted. The distinctive approach of Vincentians to issues of social justice is to see them from the perspective of those in need who are suffering from injustice. The Society helps those in need to speak for themselves. When they cannot, the Society must speak on their behalf so that they will not be ignored.

The Society's vision goes beyond the immediate future and looks towards sustainable development and protection of the environment for the benefit of future generations.

Characteristics of the Vincentian Spirit

(excerpt from the "Rule")

For a Catholic, a vocation is a call of the conscience enlightened by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Every vocation leads to a commitment, that is, to an absolutely free adherence to a particular kind of life. Vincentians accept and seek close adherence to a number of characteristics particular to the Society.

The Spirit of Holiness

- Holiness is what each individual strives to achieve. An awareness of their imperfection drives people to seek God. By means of prayer, penance, almsgiving, the sacraments and acts of charity, Vincentians can focus on their quest for perfection.
- *The Church states that: "The forms and tasks of life are many but holiness is one – that sanctity which is cultivated by all who act under God's Spirit and, obeying the Father's voice and adoring God the Father in spirit and truth, follow Christ, poor, humble and cross-bearing, that they may deserve to be partakers of his glory."*

The Spirit of Humility

- Humility is one of the fundamental characteristics of the Society.
- *Frederic Ozanam states: "Our guiding rule should be neither to force ourselves on the public gaze nor to conceal ourselves from those who may wish to find us."*

Good works speak for themselves. But simplicity and humility:

- Strengthen Vincentians;
- Hold vanity in check;
- Proclaim The Gospel values with a loud voice.

Characteristics of the Vincentian Spirit

(excerpt from the "Rule")

The Spirit of Warm Acceptance and Cordiality

- A heartfelt welcome, cordiality and accepting people as they are, characteristics of the early Christians, are part of the Vincentian way. The poor can be demanding, but a cheery disposition and a welcoming smile can make all the difference.

The Spirit of Truth and Justice

- Vincentians work toward the goal of justice for all. When serving the poor, they are open and nonjudgmental, inclusive and not exclusive. Vincentians act without prejudice and are honored to serve the poor. Honesty and truth are paramount if the Society is to follow its mandate. The distribution of funds and goods is a privilege. The goods belong to the Society inasmuch as the Society is the steward whose responsibility it is to distribute them to the poor.

The Spirit of Service and Sharing

- *"There was no one in the group who was in need. Those who owned fields and houses would sell them, bring the money received from the sale, and turn it over to the Apostles; and the money was distributed according to the needs of the people." (Acts 4:34 - 35)*

This passage reflects the spirit of sharing and love that the early Christian community had for the poor.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is founded on the principle of serving the poor. This activity of charity is the fundamental characteristic of the Society. The spirit of poverty is the sharing of the members' goods, talents and wealth in the service of their neighbours, the poor.

Membership in the Society

(excerpt from the "Rule")



“I would like to embrace
the whole world
in a network
of charity”
- Blessed Frederic Ozanam

People everywhere are called by Christ to proclaim the Gospel and to be His presence on earth. The Society, as a Catholic lay organization, remains faithful to these teachings of the Church. Members join the Society because they seek to develop their faith by living it both individually and communally. The Society is for people who feel a need to improve their Christian life and view the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as a means to accomplish this end.

Categories of Members

Pursuant to the prescription of the Rule of the International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (revised 2003), the Vincentian tradition and legal requirements, the following categories of member are recognized:

Full Member

- Any person of good will, desirous of:
 - Living his or her faith by loving and serving the poor;
 - Participating in the meetings and activities of the Society, according to the principles set forth in the International Rule.

- **The President, Vice President and Spiritual Advisor of conferences and councils shall be Roman Catholic.**

Membership in the Society

(excerpt from the "Rule")

Auxiliary Member

- Any person, whether this person be Catholic or not, who sincerely and publicly accepts the Society's principles.
- An Auxiliary Member:
 - May or may not have contact with those being served;
 - Is invited to attend the general meetings and to participate in the charitable activities of the Society;
 - May not run for office.

Benefactor

- Persons who are recognized because of their financial contributions or other support to the Society.
- They may be invited to attend meetings.

Young Adult Member

- Members between the ages of 19 and 35.

Youth Member

- Members under 19 years of age.

Confidentiality and Disclosure

(excerpt from the "Rule")

The concept of confidentiality is based on the individual's right to privacy, expressed or implied, and has both legal and ethical implications. Confidentiality means that disclosures made by a family or an individual to any of the Vincentian conference members or staff will not be revealed to others, except in specific circumstances, and then only for the purpose of serving the family or individual in question.

Members shall observe the utmost confidentiality in the provision of material aid and any other kinds of help. Confidentiality is one of the building blocks for the development of mutual trust between the persons being served and the Society. Persons being served should be informed that their identity will be protected by the Society, and that their consent will be sought before any disclosure is made to persons or organizations outside the Society.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul may need to collaborate with other community groups or government agencies when serving those in need. In such situations, for example, preparing Christmas hamper lists, obtaining assistance from food banks, making a referral to a government agency, etc., it is sometimes important to share information with those outside the Society concerning the individual or family being served. Those in need, benefiting from such collaboration, shall be informed of the necessary disclosures in such cases.

Information about a family or an individual may be released to persons or organizations outside of the Society, for example, the police or child abuse services, without the informed consent of those concerned. This is the case if:

- The situation is urgent;
- There is a real danger that a person will cause harm to himself or herself or others;
- There is a real danger to the community at large.

Confidentiality and Disclosure

(excerpt from the "Rule")

When time permits, the Manager of the Social Concern office and the Conference President should be consulted before action is taken.

Confidentiality is part of the service covenant of all members, volunteers and staff. A breach of this requirement may be grounds for requesting the resignation of the member or the employee. All members, volunteers and staff of the Society must sign the "service covenant/confidentiality agreement" when joining the Society.

What we do on Vancouver Island

Conferences and Home Visitors

The work of the SSVP 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 and came to my aid.

Vincentians (lay members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul), organize themselves into Catholic, parish-based units called Conferences to serve those in need through person-to-person contact. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has 12 conferences with over 230 members serving on Vancouver Island.

From the very beginning and throughout the Society's 160+ years of existence around the world, home visitations have been at the core and heart of the work of Vincentians. Although Ozanam, our founder, was open to all forms of charities and the Society has responded to new and changing needs through innovative support programs, home visitations continue to be the way that most Vincentians choose to make person-to-person contact with those in need.

Home visitations have the following characteristics:

They are made by a pair of Vincentians to the home of a person seeking assistance from the Society.

Generally, the call for assistance will be directed to the Society Social Concern phone number (depending on where

What we do on Vancouver Island

the call is coming from on Vancouver Island). Although the Society is a Catholic organization, we visit and serve anyone in need, regardless of religious beliefs or affiliations.

People may call the Society for various types of assistance. Some may need a compassionate ear. Some may need some emergency assistance in the form of food vouchers, clothing, or furniture. Friendship, guidance and advocacy are also offered to enable individuals and families assistance through community programs. Others may need some information that will help them access appropriate services.

The Society on Vancouver Island has conferences in the following parishes:

South Island

Holy Cross, Victoria
Sacred Heart, Victoria
St. Patrick's, Oak Bay
St. Joseph's the Worker, Victoria
St. Andrew's Cathedral, Victoria
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Sidney
Our Lady of Rosary, Langford
Queen of Peace, Esquimalt

North Island

Christ the King, Courtenay
St. Peter's, Nanaimo
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Campbell River
Notre Dame, Port Alberni

Each Conference President represents their Conference on the Victoria Particular Council and on the Board of Directors – the next level of organization on Vancouver Island.

What we do on Vancouver Island

Twinning

In many parts of the world, Councils and Conferences do not have sufficient resources to alleviate suffering. Twinning is a “special work” of the Society. It takes place when Councils and Conferences who can - reach out to help their Vincentian Brothers and Sisters in areas that do not have the resources to provide assistance those who need it most.

The three basic elements of Twinning are prayer, correspondence and financial/material assistance. Assistance can be interpreted broadly and may, for example, include technical experience in a specific field.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul on Vancouver Island twins with the following areas:

Talangama, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka	Christ the King Conference Courtenay
Gajicá, Cundinamarca, Columbia	Holy Cross Conference Victoria
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada	Our Lady of the Rosary Langford
Tarapoto, Peru	Sacred Heart, Victoria
Mutwal, Colombo 15, Sri Lanka	St. Andrew's Cathedral Victoria
Chiclayo, Peru	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Sidney
San Fernando Rey, Antioquia, Columbia	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Sidney
Cucuta, Columbia	St. Joseph the Worker Victoria
Palakkad District, Kerala State, India	St. Joseph the Worker Victoria
Save A Family Plan (aid family in India)	St. Patrick's, Victoria
Wattala, Sri Lanka	Victoria Particular Council

What we do on Vancouver Island

Advocacy

For centuries charity and justice were separated in scope and implementation. In this the Church saw charity as the foundation of its social mission. In the 19th century a shift began, initiated by social activists of whom Blessed Frederic Ozanam stood in the forefront.

Today, both the Church and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul recognize charity and justice as inseparable. In a modern world advocacy has become essential to strengthen this relationship.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Advocacy Committee was established in 2003 and works to communicate to others the type of social justice issues they come across in the course of their Vincentian work. The types of issues include:

- ◊ Lack of information or inadequate information on public services;
- ◊ Gaps in coverage or inadequate coverage in public services;
- ◊ Problems in trying to access people specific services or entitlements;
- ◊ Discourteous service from statutory (or other) bodies;
- ◊ Situations where the rules leave people trapped in poverty or inequality;
- ◊ New needs or circumstances that may indicate new trends;
- ◊ Discrimination against people because of religion, colour, gender, address, age or ethnic origin.

What we do on Vancouver Island

Youth Development

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in 1833 by Frederic Ozanam a 20 year old university student. His vision to promote and perform works of charity through personal service inspired other students to join the Society.

Island Catholic Schools and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul have joined together to develop a curriculum that prepares students in the Catholic Schools for participation in the works of St. Vincent de Paul. Teachers are provided with the tools they need to inspire today's students to begin grappling with the issues of poverty and to assist children in realizing the powerful role they can play in addressing the root causes of poverty.

The Catholic Schools provide support to those in need on Vancouver Island by holding sock, mitten and toque drives, turkey raffles, food and toiletry drives, as well as many other student initiatives. During the Christmas season, St. Andrew's High School students volunteer in the Society's Social Concern food bank and toy room.

St. Vincent de Paul Awareness Week

Beginning on World Food Day, October 16th and continuing through Mission Sunday, October 21st the Society sets aside one week a year where the members, staff and volunteers will collectively raise awareness of St. Vincent de Paul as well as thank the donors who support the Society within the community.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Programs

Social Concern Program

Located at the St. Vincent de Paul Centre in Victoria, the Social Concern Program offers assistance by providing free of charge:

- ◇ Vouchers for food, household items, furniture and clothing
- ◇ Food bags to singles through the food bank located in the Social Concern office
- ◇ Counselling
- ◇ Referrals to other agencies when necessary
- ◇ Personal advocacy
- ◇ Income tax return assistance
- ◇ Hygiene products
- ◇ Bread and pastries
- ◇ Layettees for new babies
- ◇ Work training program

Donations from the conferences, parishes and the public, as well as proceeds from the retail program are the primary source of funds for the Social Concern program. The BC Gaming Commission and the United Way also financially assist the Social Concern office.

Contact the Social Concern Office in Victoria at 1-250-382-0712

Did you know...

- ◇ *The Social Concern Program assists 2000 people per month?*
- ◇ *The Social Concern Program provides \$34,000 per month in food and emergency assistance?*
- ◇ *The Social Concern Program issues \$16,000 worth of vouchers to provide free clothing, household goods and furniture to those in need per month?*

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Programs

- ◇ *The Salvation Army provides frozen meat weekly to the Social Concern office food bank?*
- ◇ *Weekly breads and pastries are provided by La Collina Bakery, Thrifty Foods and the 9 – 10 Club?*
- ◇ *Once a week Anawim House provides food to the food bank?*
- ◇ *Through the BC Share Program of Food Banks the Mustard Seed provides canned food once per month?*
- ◇ *The food bank on View Street, Victoria provides 15,265 food bags, grocery vouchers and meal tickets during the year, equating to \$228,000?*
- ◇ *6,000 children were assisted by the Society last year?*
- ◇ *The members contributed 14,792 hours of volunteer time doing 1849 home visits throughout the year?*

North Island Social Concern Program

Conferences in the North Island, Port Alberni, Campbell River, Courtenay and Nanaimo have emergency phone numbers for those in need to contact. Each area has unique ways of assisting their clients given the local resources available. When needed the Social Concern office in Victoria is available to assist the conferences with the services they are providing.

Emergency Lines

<i>Port Alberni:</i>	<i>1-250-723-7721</i>
<i>Campbell River:</i>	<i>1-250-287-4911</i>
<i>Courtenay:</i>	<i>1-250-334-0070</i>
<i>Nanaimo:</i>	<i>1-250-753-8500</i>

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Programs

We Join Together to Help One Another....

- ◇ St. Vincent de Paul contributes to the food purchases for the Burnside Gorge Community Centre annual summer BBQ Lunch program which provides nutritious and healthy lunches for over 500 individuals.
- ◇ St. Patrick's Conference in Victoria provides funds to purchase the food for the S. J. Willis Alternative School Hot Lunch Program. This school has 139 students who receive a self-paced, flexible environment with "alternative" options like Horticulture, Bike Maintenance and Wellness.
- ◇ Christ the King Conference in Courtenay participates in The Sunshine soup kitchen comprised of members from various ecumenical groups. The soup kitchen serves 30,000 meals annually.
- ◇ The Society provides food vouchers to the Victoria Youth Clinic for street youth ages 12 - 24 years old. The vouchers are for nutritious snacks for the youth during medical visits, which adds to the ability to build relationships that foster long-term health promotion.
- ◇ The Society continues to collaborate with the Salvation Army, offering an employment training program to those in need and a pre-kindergarten program for low-income parents that focuses on teaching parents skills to ensure their children are ready for kindergarten.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Programs

Retail Program

The Society operates four thrift stores in the Greater Victoria area and one in Courtenay. These stores provide good quality used household items, clothing, furniture and small appliances at reasonable prices. The Society also provides goods free of charge to those who are referred by home visitors. The stores provide the revenue base necessary for the Society to operate its social concern program.

Each store has its own style and approach which provides a diversity of shopping experiences. People with special needs assist in our Yates Street, Langford and Courtenay Stores as well as our distribution centre at Royal Oak in Victoria.

Retail Locations:

◇ Victoria Store	833 Yates Street	1-250-382-3213
◇ Langford Store	2784 Claude Road	1-250-478-0282
◇ Sidney Store	9788B Second Street	1-250-655-3188
◇ Sooke Store	6750 West Coast Road	1-250-642-7846
◇ Courtenay Store	2703B Kilpatrick Avenue	1-250-338-4845
◇ Distribution Centre	4349 W. Saanich Road	1-250-727-0808

Did you know...

- ◇ *The Society provides free of charge over \$215,000 worth of clothing, household and furniture from the Society retail program to those in need through their voucher program per year?*
- ◇ *The Society thrift stores provide over \$1.5 million dollars worth of low cost goods to the people of Vancouver Island?*
- ◇ *The retail program pays for approximately 50% of all administration costs, allowing no administration charge to be allocated to conferences? The remainder of the administration cost is recovered from government contracts. 100% of donations to the Society go to the poor. This includes all conference donations, parish donations and donations from*

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Programs

the general public.

- ◇ *The retail program generates (not including vouchers) approximately \$200,000 per year to support the Society social programs? All funds go directly to the Social Concern program.*
- ◇ *The Society sorting centre for retail stores sorts over 150 bags of donated clothing per day?*
- ◇ *The Society has an extensive recycling program that covers unusable clothing, metal, plastics, cardboard, paper and bags as well as anything else that can be recycled?*
- ◇ *The retail program has 89 volunteers working in the thrift stores and the sorting & dispatch centre?*

Vinnie's Outlet

Effective July 2007, the Society opened Vinnie's Outlet, a voucher outlet for the distribution of clothing, furniture and household goods to those in need. The outlet, located on View Street in Victoria, assists over 1000 individuals and families a month.

The outlet is unique in that nothing in the store is priced. Everything is there to be given to those in need and the atmosphere promotes dignity and friendship - two of the most basic human principles.

Frederic Ozanam Program

The Frederic Ozanam Program is a CARF accredited day program for 75 people with developmental disabilities located in Royal Oak, Victoria. Funded by Community Living BC, the Centre provides:

- ◇ A communal environment, where everyone is valued;
- ◇ Pre-employment skill development;

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Programs

- ◇ Work experience and life experience;
- ◇ Opportunities for individual growth;
- ◇ Basic education for persons with disabilities;
- ◇ Pre-vocational and employment readiness training.

Did you know...

- ◇ *the Ozanam Program sponsors the Ozanam Summer Games and invites other day programs in the community to participate with them at Beaver Lake Park?*
- ◇ *the Ozanam Program sponsors community dances three to four times per year for persons with disabilities in the community?*
- ◇ *the Ozanam Program hosts a Radio show on CFUV every Tuesday for 1 hour?*
- ◇ *Participants and staff do volunteer work at the following places:*
 - *a group cleans up at the Beacon Hill petting zoo?*
 - *another group does soup making at James Bay Community Centre?*
 - *another group bakes cookies at Silver threads?*
 - *another group goes to Yoga at James Bay Community Centre?*
- ◇ *the Ozanam participants gather with participants from other day programs to sing along together at Nameste and at James Bay Community Centre?*
- ◇ *the participants volunteer at the Social Concern Office packing bags for persons in need?*

Housing Program

St. Vincent de Paul Centre is located on Yates Street in Victoria and is the home for 43 people who are “homeless at risk”. This is a home for individuals that have various challenges in their lives; it gives them a safe place to live and provides programs and activities to support their personal goals.

The Housing program has a consistent tenant population

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Programs

who enjoy the sense of “community” within the building. All the tenants bring special talents and experiences that enhance the overall spirit of the Centre. Some tenants volunteer in our downtown store while others are employed to do janitorial or gardening work for the Society.

The Housing program employs a full-time Program Manager and two resident support workers who split their time between the Housing and the Social Concern office. The operation of the housing building is fully funded by BC Housing. The tenant activities and the resident support workers are funded by the Vancouver Island Health Authority.

Did you know...

- ◇ *the housing staff liaison with members from the Vancouver Island Health Authority, law enforcement and various other support agencies to bring a safe, caring community to our tenants?*
- ◇ *staff is on-call 24/7 to help tenants with any issue that may arise?*
- ◇ *50% of the tenants in the building are women?*
- ◇ *the housing program have regularly scheduled outings for the tenants, i.e. picnics, attractions, and events?*
- ◇ *Housing Staff love their work?*

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Programs

Administration Program

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul on Vancouver Island has a centralized administration program located at 4349 West Saanich Road, Victoria. The administration team is comprised of an Executive Director, two Administrative Assistants and a Financial Administrator as well as volunteers who assist with the many functions of the program. The administration office is charged with maintaining the finances, payroll, reporting requirements and charitable tax receipts for the Society as well as overseeing the day-to-day operations of the programs and assisting the general public, members, staff and volunteers with any questions they may have.

Did you know...

- ◇ *The Society on Vancouver Island employees 85 staff and has over 440 volunteers? This includes 230 members in 12 conferences. For every one staff person in the Society there are five volunteers carrying out the works of St. Vincent de Paul.*
- ◇ *Society administration cost is less than 7% of the program cost?*
- ◇ *The administration department issues over 4000 charitable tax receipts per year on behalf of the conferences?*
- ◇ *The admin office is open five days a week from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and is available to assist you with any questions you might have?*
- ◇ *The central office has a Society library, archives, meeting rooms and offices for members to use when they would like?*

**The administration office can be contacted by
phoning 1-250-727-0007
faxing 1-250-727-0771**

Appendix I

Frederic Ozanam and his Companions

(excerpt from the "Rule")

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

Antoine Frederic Ozanam was born in Milan, Italy, on April 23, 1813 where his parents, residents of Lyon, France, had moved temporarily. His parents were devout Catholics who passed on to young Frederic a deep love of God and the poor. After graduating from high school at the Royal College of Lyon, he moved to Paris to study law as his father wished. There, he was confronted with a society in deep turmoil and detached from their faith, as a result of the Revolution of 1830. Guided by Andre-Marie Ampere, an imminent scientist and Catholic, he came to the unshakable certitude that Christianity was the only remedy to cure the evils of his time.

He gathered around him students of like mind and faith and confronted faculty members of the Sorbonne University who attacked their faith. He persuaded the Archbishop of Paris to have Father Henri Lacordaire, a renowned preacher, deliver a series of lectures at Notre-Dame Cathedral. The success of these lectures or conferences was overwhelming and the *Conferences de Notre-Dame* were launched.

Ideas about social justice were promoted in the Tribune Catholique, a newspaper founded in 1832 by Emmanuel Bailly. A literary circle, *La Societe des bonnes etudes*, was linked to this newspaper. The aim of this circle was to develop among Catholics a taste for historical, philosophical and religious research. Ozanam had a similar idea and he

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and friends became active in what became known as the *Conferences d'histoire*. It developed into a dynamic forum of discussion and research at the university.

One March night in 1833, a fellow student, a non-Catholic, challenged Frederic and friends. His question was "What are you doing for them (the poor), you and your fellow Catholics...? Show us your works!" Ozanam knew that faith must be translated into action and that, like the apostles, they needed to evangelize by the practice of charity. He rallied the group when he cried out:

"The blessing of the poor is that of God,...let us go to the poor."

One evening in May, 1833, Frederic and five other students met in the office of Mr. Bailly. The "Conference of Charity" was born. They asked Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul to teach them how to minister to the poor with love and respect, and she did so with much kindness. By 1834, there were more than 100 members and the Conference was renamed the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, taking the saint as an example to follow, and placed under the protection of the Blessed Virgin.

Ozanam was becoming a respected figure in professional areas. As a Doctor of Law in 1836, he began a career as a lawyer and then became professor of Law in Lyon. In 1839, he graduated as Doctor of Literature. He finished first in the 1840 competitive examination of the Faculty of Arts and Literature at the Sorbonne. He was named Professor of Foreign Literature at the same university in 1844.

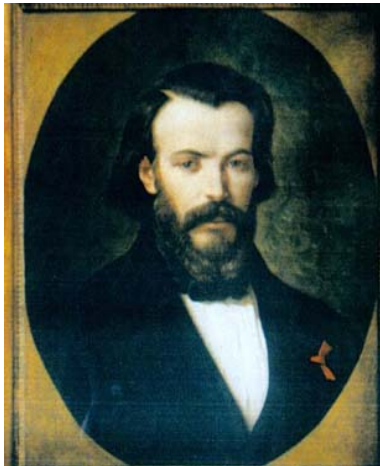
Ozanam married Amelie Soulacroix in Lyon on June 23, 1841 in a wedding celebrated by his brother Alphonse. A daughter, Marie, was born in July 1845. His life, with his family, teaching, research, writing and various civic social and religious commitments was a full one.

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Other than his service to the poor, he researched the conditions of the working classes and defended their rights as human beings and workers. He co-founded the newspaper "*l'Ere Nouvelle*" (New Era) to propagate his social and political ideas. Ozanam was one of the first to formulate the idea of a "natural salary" to claim compensation against unemployment and accidents, and to ask that a pension be guaranteed to workers.

In 1852, exhausted from excessive work over the years, he was forced to rest and went to Italy. However his health continued to deteriorate. Although weak, he left Italy with his wife by steamship on August 31, 1853 and landed in Marseilles, France, a few days later. He passed away in that city on September 8, 1853, the feast of the birthday of the Blessed Mother, to whom he has such a great devotion. He is buried in the crypt of the Church of St-Joseph-des-Carmes in Paris. His feast is celebrated on September 9th.

Pope John-Paul II beatified him in Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris on August 22, 1997.



Appendix II

Saint Vincent de Paul (1581-1660)

St. Vincent de Paul, patron of the Society, was named patron of works of charity by Pope Leo XIII.

Vincent de Paul was born to peasant farmers on April 24, 1581, in a village near the city of Dax in Gascony, France. In 1595, his father recognizing his intellectual talents and pleasing personality, and aware of the limited possibilities in the region, enrolled Vincent in a boarding school run by the Franciscans. Vincent received tonsure and Minor Orders in 1596 and went on to complete his education at the University of Toulouse, France. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1600. His ambition was to obtain an ecclesiastical post, which would provide prosperity for him and the family.

Father Vincent settled in Paris, where in 1623 he received a degree in Canon Law from the University of Paris. He soon secured a position as Chaplain to Queen Marguerite de Valois but his life was soon to change.

During this period, Father Vincent suffered an intense spiritual crisis. After some time, he promised that if god were to take away the darkness he was experiencing, he would dedicate his life to the service of the poor. The anguish went away and Father Vincent would remain faithful to his vow for the rest of his life.

Father Vincent became acquainted with Father Pierre de Berulle, a holy priest who later became cardinal and who also became Father Vincent's spiritual director. Father de Berulle got him his first parish at Clichy, near Paris, in May 1612. There, Father Vincent rebuilt the local church and transformed it into a model parish. He was transferred to another parish in 1617, Chatillon-les-Dombes, where he again experienced the misery of the peasants and organized

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the practice of Christian charity to respond to their material needs.

During this same period Father Vincent was also entrusted with the education of the son of Count Philippe-Emmanuel de Gondi and his wife Françoise Marguerite, one of the most prestigious families in Europe. Count de Gondi appointed Father Vincent chaplain of prisons and of the slaves rowing the galleys. King Louis XIII appointed him General chaplain of the Galleys in February 1619 and he worked at this ministry for a few years. Father Vincent was becoming more devoted in the service of the poor whom he felt were his lords and masters. He felt the need to establish institutions to carry out his ministry and mission which he now saw as the continuation of the mission of Jesus Himself.

Father Vincent received a generous endowment from the de Gondi family in April 1625 so he could pursue his work of charity. He set up missions and colleges spreading out to Scotland, Ireland, Italy, Poland and North Africa. He established *The Confraternities of Charity* in 1617 to attend to the poor and the sick. Today, this organization is known as the *International Association of Charities* (IAC).

The Archbishop of Paris granted his approval to Father Vincent's community of priests and brothers, *The Congregation of the Mission*, also known as *Vincentians*, on April 24, 1626. Their mission was to evangelize the poor in rural areas and to help in the formation and education of priests. On November 29, 1633 in a small house in a suburb of Paris, the Daughters of Charity, an order of non-cloistered women, was established, co-founded by Father Vincent and Louise de Marillac to carry out a hands-on ministry to the poor.

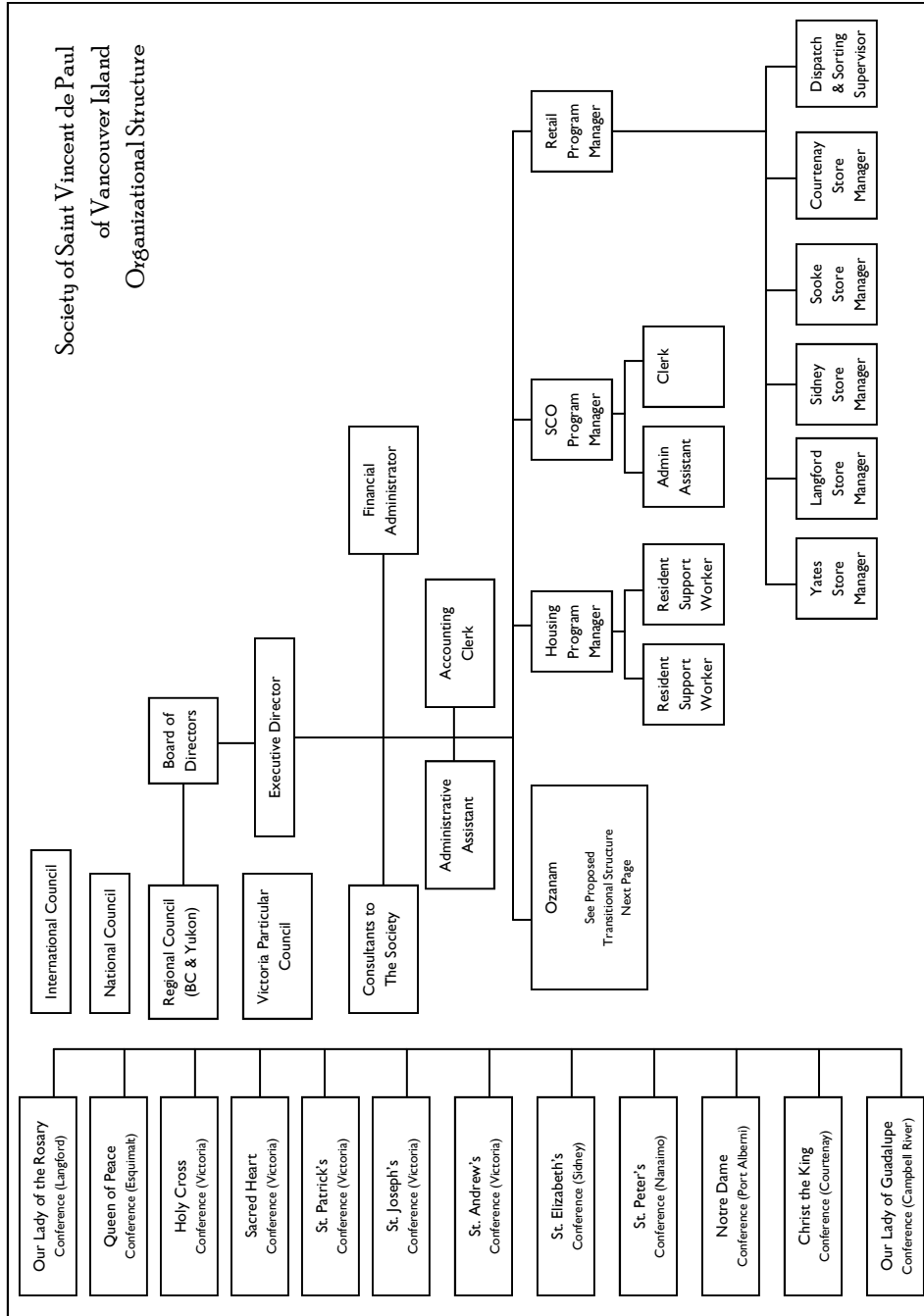
Saint Vincent de Paul pursued his mission with great energy

Appendix II

and conviction, answering the material and spiritual needs of the poor and the abandoned, all his life. He is a most admirable example of charity in action. Saint Vincent de Paul passed away on September 27, 1660. Pope Clement XII canonized him on June 16, 1737.



Appendix III



Ozanam Organizational Chart
Proposed Transitional Structure May 2008

