

Key activities of SVP in NI:

- Home visits to marginalised and low-income families/individuals offering them support and friendship with financial and material assistance
- Practical support for those in need of heating, food, electric, school uniforms and other essentials
- Visits to people in hospital, residential homes and prison
- Operates crèches, breakfast and afterschool clubs
- Provides support to SVP groups in Ghana and Botswana with which the SVP Northern Region is twinned
- SVP oil scheme
- Courses in home and budget management
- Youth drop-in centres
- Youth projects to improve citizenship
- Manages around 30 'Vincent's' charity shops
- Provides 'breaks' and respite in one of the Society's holiday homes for families and older people
- Works to identify the root causes of poverty and advocates for the changes required to create a more just and caring society
- Any form of help that alleviates suffering and promotes human dignity to the people we serve

SVP has 1600 volunteers across Northern Ireland but we are always looking for more assistance. If you could spare an hour or two a week to help those who may be struggling in your community, please don't hesitate to get in touch. There is a role for everyone in St Vincent de Paul.

For more information:
Tel: 028 9035 1561
Email: info@svpni.co.uk



Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

(In the hope of obtaining a miracle through his intercession)

Heavenly Father, you made Blessed Frédéric Ozanam a witness of the Gospel, full of wonder at the mystery of the Church.

You inspired him to alleviate poverty and injustice and endowed him with untiring generosity in the service of all who were suffering.

In family life, he revealed a most genuine love as a son, brother, husband and father. In secular life, his ardent passion for the truth enlightened his thought, writing and teaching. His vision for our society was a network of charity encircling the world and he instilled St Vincent de Paul's spirit of love, boldness and humility. His prophetic social vision appears in every aspect of his short life, together with the radiance of his virtues.

We thank you Lord for these many gifts and we ask, if it is your will, the grace of a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. That the Church may proclaim his holiness, as a saint, and a providential light for today's world!

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



Society of St Vincent de Paul

Become a Friend of the Society of St Vincent de Paul



Northern Region

Help us to help others

How did the Society of St Vincent de Paul begin?

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is one of the longest-standing charitable organisations in the world.



It began in the early 1800s during a very troubled time in Paris when a small group of young Catholic students decided to show that their faith was real by committing themselves to care for the poor. The leader of this group was a young man called Frédéric Ozanam. He and his colleagues formed an association to help the poor and they decided to call themselves the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

Why did they choose this name?

Nearly 200 years earlier a remarkable French priest dedicated his life to relieving every kind of poverty. He formed organisations called Conferences of Charity to help with this work. These were highly organised and effective in bringing real help to the poorest of the poor in all parts of France. He was Vincent de Paul, now known as the Apostle of Charity. Frédéric Ozanam chose him as patron of the new society. The local groups of the Society of St Vincent de Paul are also called 'Conferences'.



The Society of St Vincent de Paul today

Since its inception, the Society has spread to more than 130 countries and has more than one million members worldwide. The Society was first established in Ireland in 1844 as a direct response to the potato famine and the large number of people needing help. Today there are over one thousand 'Conferences' in Ireland with more than ten thousand members.

The work of St Vincent de Paul in Northern Ireland

SVP has been working tirelessly for the last 170 years in the local area to combat poverty and deprivation. Through our 1600 volunteers right across Northern Ireland, we make thousands of visits each and every week to families and individuals in need and provide practical and material support such as food, clothes, furniture and financial help.

Many new activities have been developed in recent years to help more and more people in other ways. This includes running community-based courses to help people to maximise their potential and to cope with the challenges of day-to-day living. SVP also provides affordable, and in some cases, free childcare facilities and homework clubs, runs around 30 charity shops across NI and our members also visit people in need of company who are in hospital and prison. Our support is not limited however, and we offer any form of help that alleviates suffering and promotes human dignity.

Without your help, we cannot help others

Now, more than ever, we are experiencing an increasing demand for our services from local people who are facing mounting social and economic challenges arising from recession and unemployment, as well as the fallout from government budget cuts. Our volunteers continue to work hard to help as many people as we can. We are extremely grateful for all the vital donations made by the ever-giving public, but we are also appealing to you to support the charity in another way – by becoming a '**Friend of the Society**'.

Become a Friend of St Vincent de Paul in NI

As a Friend of the Society, we would ask that you would be familiar with the work of SVP and to support the Society by spreading the word, telling others what we do. The work of the Society, inspired by Charity, also requires the support of your prayers. We would ask you to pray for our members and all the people they are called to help. As a Friend of the Society you will receive a copy of our quarterly Regional Newsletter. A Mass will be offered for your intentions once a month. **We thank you for your support. Your generosity in the form of time and prayers is deeply appreciated.**



Society of St Vincent de Paul

Register to become a Friend of SVP

FORENAME _____

SURNAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

I would like to be kept up to date with St Vincent de Paul projects and activities

When you have completed this form, please return to:

Friend of the Society
St Vincent de Paul
Northern Region
196-200 Antrim Road
Belfast
BT15 2AJ

Or email your details to info@svpni.co.uk