

Top Hat Award

The Top Hat Award is one of the highest honors presented by Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Diocesan Councils. It recognizes dedicated volunteers, staff, or community partners who exemplify the spirit of the Society's founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam. Blessed Frederic wore the custom style in his day, a frock coat and top hat. He would wear the hat as a symbol of his high social standing but remove it upon entering the homes of the needy as a sign of being "at their service." The award is for extraordinary service—honoring those individuals who go above and beyond normal Vincentian efforts to serve neighbors in need. These individuals also exemplify Vincentian values and virtues, demonstrating compassion, humility, and a deep commitment to the Society's mission.

Each District in the Diocese may have one Top Hat Award winner each year. Individual Conferences may nominate one Vincentian, staff, or community partner for the Top Hat Award using the attached form submitted to the District President. The District President should chair a District committee to select the award winner for the District. The District winner information then is to be sent to Trace Trylko for the Orlando Diocese Council (trace@svdporlando.org) no later than **September 15. 2026**. The Top Hat award for each District will be presented at the Biannual Meeting on Saturday, October 17, 2026.



Top Hat Award

NOMINATION FORM

Name of Vincentian, or Vincentian group, to be nominated:

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Please explain why this person or group of persons should be recognized for the Top Hat Award. The award is for extraordinary service—honoring those individuals who go above and beyond normal Vincentian efforts to serve neighbors in need. These individuals also exemplify Vincentian values and virtues, demonstrating compassion, humility, and a deep commitment to the Society's mission. If an individual, please include their length of service as a Vincentian and his/her extraordinary service or efforts as a Vincentian over and above the norm. The purpose is to recognize an outstanding Vincentian or a Vincentian team and to provide an example for others to follow.

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Nominator: _____ Conference: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail_____