

## WHO ARE WE?

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, an international Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually in friendship by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering.

We follow in the tradition of our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and our patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

### We believe:

- in the dignity of the human person.
- in the identification of Jesus with the poor.
- that our primary concern is charity and social justice, especially to those living on the margins

### Our works include:

- Serving those in need in our parish and the surrounding community including families with children, the working poor, the jobless, the disabled, the homeless, and the lonely.
- Providing financial assistance primarily for food, utility bills, rental assistance, transportation, and for other household needs.
- Referring neighbors to additional service organizations.
- Listening and providing spiritual and moral support.

## FACTS

- The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in 1833 by Blessed Frederic Ozanam.
- It is named after St. Vincent de Paul, a priest in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Paris, who devoted his life to the poor.
- Our SVdP Conference helps over 500 neighbors annually in \_\_\_\_\_ and surrounding areas.
- Some 14 million people are helped annually by the 160,000 Vincentians in the United States.

## ABOUT US

- Our volunteers answer the call of Pope Francis to be a Church that serves the poor.
- We meet on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the month at \_\_\_\_\_ m in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- We serve people of all faiths within the boundaries of our parish as well as neighboring communities.
- We are always looking for new members and volunteers to help us perform this spiritually-rewarding ministry.
- St. Vincent de Paul members, called *Vincentians*, strive to see the face of Christ in the poor.

## ACTIVITIES: "COME AND SEE"

Whatever a person can do is greatly appreciated.

### Phone Duty:

From Monday through Friday, members answer calls for assistance. They visit neighbors during the day, making home visits while providing food, gift cards, and other help. Phone duty rotates, with members volunteering \_\_\_\_\_ days a month.

- **St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room:** Members are invited to serve at the SVdP Dining Room in Oakland throughout the year
- **Holiday Food Distribution:** Members assist with gift cards and food give-away at Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.
- **Serving the Homeless** with food, goods, and resources, on weekends and other times.
- **Our Parishioners** benefit the conference with prayers, food, gift cards, and funds. Thank you!
- **No work of charity, justice, and kindness** is foreign to the works of the Conference of St. Vincent de Paul.

## VINCENTIAN ROLE...

Our primary role is not to pay the bills, furnish the groceries, or clothe someone. The role of the Vincentian is to provide loving and compassionate interest to individuals. If that interest calls for food, clothing, or other assistance, so be it.

However, it is in loving where the contact with Christ emerges. That contact with Christ is what separates the Society of St. Vincent de Paul from just another agency.

When Vincentians see Jesus in the poor, they are moved to service.

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. "*

Matthew 25:40

**This is the Vincentian job description.**

## Celebrating



**Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

## Does the work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul interest you? "Come and See"!

Please fill out the form below, or go to [svdp-alameda.org](http://svdp-alameda.org), if you would like to join, or desire more information.

Completed forms may be dropped off at the Rectory or mailed to the Church.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your interest in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.  
Someone will contact you soon.

## SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

\_\_\_\_\_, Conference

\_\_\_\_\_, California



**"Come and See"**

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_, President

or

\_\_\_\_\_, Vice President