



## WELCOME TO ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

St. Vincent de Paul spent his life serving the poor and needy in France (1581-1660). In 1885, Pope Leo XIII named him as universal patron of all works of charity. You are invited to continue St. Vincent's mission by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Conference.

Face-to-face contact with the poor is the heart of the Society's charitable spirit. Our founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, inspired his followers with these words: "Do not be afraid of new beginnings. Be creative. Be inventive. You who have energy, who have enthusiasm, who want to do something of value for the future: Be inventive. Launch out. Do not wait!"

We seek "to follow Christ, who gave His own life to the poor and to the marginalized, and who asks us to love as He loved." Joining with the poor, Vincentians seek to follow Christ.

## WHO WE ARE

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Conference is a lay association of volunteers. Called "Vincentians," we grow spiritually as we act on our faith in service to the poor. Our work strengthens our faith as Vincentians and parishioners, enhancing our personal spiritual growth and development.

We help clients solve serious, immediate problems resulting from job loss, poor health, abuse, and other factors. We meet with clients to help them assess their needs and may refer clients to other agencies for long-term assistance.

Our conference serves New Trier Township and areas of particular need. We have the experience of being a force of good throughout times of war, global pandemics, economic crises, and social changes.



**SOCIETY OF ST.  
VINCENT DE PAUL**  
**Saints Joseph and Francis  
Xavier Conference**

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*"Serving the poor and seeing Christ in  
everyone"*



## WHAT WE DO

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Conference strives to provide support while preserving the dignity and confidentiality of those in need.

Our work often involves providing immediate financial support and conducting service projects to address pressing needs and connecting clients to long-term resources. Our goal is to assist clients so that they may get "back on their own feet."

- Families hit with medical bills after the father lost his job and health insurance.
- A single mother struggling to pay bills.
- Elementary school children unable to attend school because they are sometimes homeless.
- Penniless refugees lacking affordable housing, coats, blankets and clothing needed for Chicago's freezing winters.

These are just a few examples of people we support. Please consider joining us or making a contribution to help us help our neighbors!



## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**Our first priority is to serve those in need through direct, personal communication.**

- Monitor messages on our hotline, responding to callers in crisis and providing resources and referrals.
- Support refugee and immigrant families at St. Thomas of Canterbury School as they adjust to life in their new surroundings. We provide clothes, furniture, and household supplies.
- Partner with Uncle Pete's Ministry in making sack meals for the Chicago area homeless and food pantries/shelters.
- Visit patients at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab and assist them in getting to Mass.
- Create Prison Ministry Care Kits for the newly released.
- Deliver flowers to the elderly and homebound at Christmas and Easter.
- Help with Donation Drives for clothing and household goods.

## PLEASE JOIN US!

To join, please leave a message with the St. Francis Parish office (847-256-4250, ex. 44) or email [SFXstvincentdepaul@comcast.net](mailto:SFXstvincentdepaul@comcast.net). One of our members will contact you with more information.

Membership in the Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Conference is open to all those who are willing to serve. There is no initiation process or age limit. The only necessary qualification is the desire to join with others to help those in need.

Our society provides a range of opportunities for service to the needy and the poor. We hope that as a Vincentian you will attend our monthly meetings and participate in one or two of our projects.

We nourish our faith by serving others. Come be a part of this crucial mission!

