



Frédéric Ozanam (1813 - 1853)

The St. Vincent de Paul Society was founded in France in 1833 by a 19 year old Catholic student called Frédéric Ozanam. In a discussion one day, Frédéric was asked to say what the Catholic Church was doing for the poor in France. Frédéric was embarrassed. He knew in his heart that the Church was doing very little.

So Frédéric and his friends began to meet each week to plan visits and help local people in need. He now realised that Christianity was about actions, not just words. Thus, they formed the world's first SVP group. In 1997 Frédéric Ozanam was beatified by Pope John Paul II in France.

St Vincent de Paul is recognised, both in France and worldwide as the apostle of charity and of the society. It was decided by the Founders to dedicate the society to St Vincent de Paul.

We have a Conference of the St Vincent' de Paul Society in our Parish of St Patrick's. It was formed in 1884 and we have a copy of the letter sent from France giving us authorisation to establish a Conference.

At the moment we have seven members and we try to help people who are in need, make visits to the elderly and unwell as well as many other things.