



St. Vincent de Paul Society  
At the Heart of Giving.

## At the Heart: History of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

*"...(our) hearts beat with the heartbeat of the poor."* Rule, Part 1, 1.9

On September 27th, we celebrate the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, the patron saint of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Vincent was a priest during the 17th Century well-known for his compassion, humility, and generosity and is recognized as the "Great Apostle of Charity." His teachings about God's special presence in the poor are revolutionary even in our day. The St. Vincent de Paul Society was established in Paris, in 1833, as an organization of faith by young men and women who wanted to more fully live their faith. This year, 2020, marks the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the St. Vincent de Paul Society's presence in the United States. The first parish group (known as a conference) in Milwaukee was formed in 1848. The Society is represented in Milwaukee County by 45 conferences throughout our Catholic parishes. Essential to the foundation of a conference is a focus on the elements of Spirituality, Friendship and Service as inspired by the Society's founding members and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

Journeying together towards holiness is central to the calling of a Vincentian (member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul). They dedicate time to showing Christ's love to people experiencing poverty, suffering, and need. They gain the inspiration to do so through their shared spirituality along with a life of prayer and reflection on the Holy Scriptures, devotion to the Eucharist and by seeking the protection of the Virgin Mary.

Today begins our month-long Awareness series to inspire you to learn more about the Society and how the loving presence of God is found in service to the poor. Vincentian members of local area parishes ask for your prayers to encourage them in their mission of following Christ through compassionate service to those in need. You can find more information about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at [www.svdpmilw.org](http://www.svdpmilw.org).