



From the Heart: Founders of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

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

The founding of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is attributed to Blessed Frederic Ozanam. As a young adult college student in France, he led a small group of his classmates into the poor areas of Paris to do what they could to offer aid to families during a time of crisis and great need. Sr. Rosalie Rendu taught them how to minister to God's poor. Working one-to-one with families, they gave witness to non-believers about the vitality of their faith. This model of assistance spread through Europe and arrived in our Archdiocese in 1849. Choosing St. Vincent de Paul as their patron was a natural fit as he was known for his great faith, dedication to serve the most poor and his organization of charitable work. St. Louise de Marillac was a collaborator with Vincent in the personal service extended to the poor and sick. In forming the Daughters of Charity, her mission to "take good care of the poor" continues today. In their day, a time of political unrest, wide-spread illness and situational poverty, these Saints and Blesseds heeded their baptismal call to love God by showing compassionate care for the poor and vulnerable. In our time, faced with similar unrest, illness and poverty, Vincentians see the face of Christ in the Poor. Oftentimes, they work quietly, behind-the-scenes, confidentially honoring the life experiences of those they serve. The need is urgent. Is the call urging you into service to those most in need? You are invited to contact **(Parish Conference Contact Person)** for information about the Vincentian mission.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam... Pray for us.

St. Vincent de Paul...Pray for us.

Blessed Rosalie Rendu...Pray for us.

St. Louise de Marillac...Pray for us.