



# Welcome to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

## Contact Us

Society of St. Vincent De Paul  
St George Church  
1164 Commissioners Rd. West  
(519-471-4220)



## ST. GEORGE CONFERENCE SPRINGBANK CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

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# WHO ARE WE?

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay, international, voluntary Catholic organization founded in 1833 by Frederic Ozanam and his companions. Our primary mission is personal service of the poor.

## Origins of the Society

### First Beginnings: Paris France

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam is recognized as the main founder of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. He gathered around him students of like mind and faith and they confronted faculty members of the Sorbonne University who attacked their faith.

One March night in 1833, a fellow student, a non-Catholic, challenged Frédéric and friends. His question was "What are you doing for them (the poor), you and your fellow Catholics...? Show us your works!" Ozanam knew that faith must be translated into action and that, like the apostles, they needed to evangelize by the practice of charity. He rallied the group when he cried out: "The blessing of the poor is that of God...let us go to the poor,"

One evening in May 1833, Frédéric and five other students met in the office of Mr. Bailly. The "Conference of Charity" was born. They asked Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul to teach them how to minister to the poor with love and respect, and she did so with much kindness. Developing a simple system, they went in teams to help the poor in their homes, in the streets, in the hospitals and in asylums. By 1834, there were more than 100 members and the Conference adopted as their patron Saint Vincent de Paul, a 6<sup>th</sup> century cleric renowned for his work with the poor. The society arose from humble beginnings to become an international organization found in 130 countries with one million members.

For the complete history: <http://ssvp.on.ca/en/history.php>

# I WANT TO JOIN...

⇒ HERE'S WHAT WE NEED

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*"After the love of God, your principal concern must be to serve the poor with great gentleness and cordiality sympathizing with them in their ailments and listening to their little complaints... for they look on you as people sent by God to help them. You are therefore intended to represent the goodness of God in the eyes of the poor"* Blessed Frederic Ozanam

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- ⇒ All volunteers are required to have current police check on record at St. George Parish
- ⇒ We will add your name, address, phone number and email address to our communication list
- ⇒ Vincentians are required to review and sign the Abuse Prevention Policy

# Outreach & Service

## Ronald McDonald House



- Monthly we buy, prepare, and serve meals to families staying at Ronald McDonald House.
- We offer friendship and comfort during their stay away from home.

## Community Outreach



- Byron Cares Foodbank
- London Chaplaincy Program- afterschool dinner program
- St. Joseph weekly coffee social
- Helping Hands-Christmas dinner, food & gift hampers
- Community Housing breakfasts & monthly social
- Social Justice Team
- Community Garden in support of food bank

## St. Vincent de Paul Retail Stores



- We support the two London SSVP retail stores, volunteering to sort and assist staff
- We provide free vouchers to purchase clothing, household item and new mattresses.

## London

The first conference in London was founded at St. Lawrence's in 1863. St. Lawrence was the predecessor of St. Peter's cathedral, for the seat of the London diocese was still in Windsor. At present, London has 12 parish conferences, including a youth conference at Holy Family Parish. SSVP is committed to helping the poor in the London community.

## St. George's Parish

St. George Parish Conference was formed in 1998 at the request of Fr. Gary Goyeau because the parish was experiencing an ever-increasing number of calls from people needing help. Our founding President was Ed St. Antoine and founding Vincentians Carol Ann St. Antoine, Ralph & Keryth Fish, Brian & Martha Sinasac and Dean & Judy Bechard

The group quickly set out on their mission with home visits, welcoming many immigrant families to their new country, and recruiting new Vincentian members. We have had blessed with leadership from Bob Thibert and our current president Brian Sinasac. The conference continues to grow and established outreach programs to help serve the needy. In 2022, we have over 50 active members.

St George SSVP is in the London Particular Council of SSVP. The London Particular Council serves 13 parishes and the surrounding area. The council's role is to coordinate activities of the parishes, serve the conferences by furthering charitable activities, and encouraging continuity in serving the poor.

# Our Goals & Service

## Home Visits: our #1 PRIMARY GOAL



Since the founding of SSVP the primary goal is home visits. Those in need call or stop in at the church. A team member is contacted and the request for food, clothing, assistance is immediately acted upon. Our founding activity, still practiced today, is the Home Visit. Through these visits, known as Vincentians, we establish personal relationships offering material assistance as well as friendship and understanding.

## St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre



Monthly, free, hot breakfasts are cooked, and served by our St. George Vincentians. The drop-in center offers both a hardy, healthy breakfast and a place where individuals can visit to get a hot meal and find fellowship

## Bundle Sundays, Helping Hands, Cover Me with Love



Thanks to the parishioners of St George Parish for their strong support of our conference through donation envelopes, collection of clothing, winter coats, blankets, Christmas hampers, gift vouchers.

# SSVP MISSION STATEMENT

The official name is "Society of Saint Vincent de Paul"



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is:

- To live the gospel message
- By serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, and joy.

## Values

The Mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul implies that as Vincentians, we:

- see Christ in anyone who suffers;
- come together as a family;
- have personal contact with the poor;
- help in all possible ways



## Logo

The fish is the symbol of Christianity. The eye of the fish is the vigilant eye of God seeking to help the poor in our midst.

Learn more about the Ontario Regional Council at <https://ssvp.on.ca/en>

Learn more about the National Council of Canada at <https://ssvp.ca/>

Learn more about SSVP International at <https://www.ssvpglobal.org/en/>