

## In honor of St. Vincent de Paul's feast day, September 27<sup>th</sup>



### The Beginnings of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

In the midst of the political, social, religious, and economic turmoil of early 19th century France, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul originated. As a young student at the Sorbonne, Antoine Frédéric Ozanam was appalled by the conditions he saw in Paris. At a student meeting, another student challenged Ozanam and other practicing Catholics, admitting that while the Catholic Church had done much good work in the past, he could not see what good the Church was doing currently.

On April 23, 1833, his 20th birthday, Ozanam invited five other students to a meeting, where they founded the first Conference of Charity to assist the poor. This Catholic lay organization was intended to help members increase in holiness by loving service to those in need. The six students chose Emmanuel Bailly, a married layman, as their first president. Shortly thereafter, they changed their name to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in honor of their patron saint.

### The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the United States

Just 12 years after its founding in France, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul established roots in the United States. On November 20, 1845, the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul was established in St. Louis, Missouri at the Basilica of St. Louis, King of France, popularly called "The Old Cathedral."

Several people were instrumental in the Society's growth and development in the U.S., including Father John Timon, an American Vincentian priest from Pennsylvania who brought copies of the Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul from Dublin, Ireland, to St. Louis. Timon spoke with various people about the Society's work with the poor, including Bishop Peter Richard Kenrick. Kenrick asked Father Ambrose Heim, known for extraordinary zeal and ministry with the poor, to establish the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and be its spiritual advisor. Father Heim became known as "The Priest of the Poor."

The Conference was formally recognized by the Society's International Council in Paris on February 2, 1846, and would never have opened without the dedicated laypeople who accepted the initial invitation to become members and serve the poor.

With nearly 90,000 Vincentian volunteers serving their communities, today's Society of St. Vincent de Paul works in 4,428 parish-based Conferences across the United States. Our founding activity, still practiced today, is the face-to-face Encounter (also known as the Home Visit), in which Vincentians visit the homes of those they serve, to identify both immediate and longer-term needs, including emergency assistance with utilities, rent, food, and clothing.

## **Our local St. Vincent de Paul Society conference**

Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society are men and women who strive to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to individuals in need. Our funds come strictly from the generosity of our parish community. Their Society Conference assists the needy in our area by assisting with rent and utility bills and assisting other St. Vincent de Paul Society Conferences in their needs.

There are many ways you can help with our local conference:

1. You can drop a donation, make checks and envelop out to St. Vincent de Paul Society, in the collection basket or the St. Vincent de Paul box, located just left of the main door as you exit the church.
2. Join the local conference and help spread the society's goal to assist the poor and end poverty.
3. Donate to the upcoming Friends of the Poor® Walk.

Thank you for your donations and continued support of our local conference. We hope to see you at our next upcoming meeting.

### **Meeting Schedule:**

We have business meetings on the 1st Monday of the month at 8:45 a.m., after morning Mass. Please join us or please call (251) 458-4578 and leave a message. We will return your call as soon as possible. Help us continue to grow in Holiness together.



to end poverty!

## 2025 FRIENDS OF POOR© WALK

The Society of the St. Vincent de Paul invites you to participate in the 2025 Friends of the Poor© Walk in support of our local families in need.

- There is no fee to walk. Make a donation to support your local community.
- Walk for a chance to win a new bicycle! Walkers will receive a FREE ticket to a draw.
- Walk to win a gift card.
- All funds raised will be used for those that cannot sustain their basic needs such as food, shelter, and utilities.
- Service hours available to youth groups willing to help on the day of the event.

The Friends of the Poor© Walk raises awareness and funds to assist our neighbors in need.

### JOIN US!

**Saturday, September 27**

St. Vincent de Paul Parish  
4980 St. Vincent Dr. Mobile, AL 36619

### DAY OF EVENT:

- Mass at 8:00 AM  
*St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
4980 St. Vincent Dr. Mobile, AL 36619*
- FREE Pancake Breakfast!  
*Prepared by Knights of Columbus Council 7270*
- St. Luke's Band will open our event
- T-shirts  
*First 50 walkers will receive a FREE T-Shirt*

### 2-MILE WALK/RUN

- Begins at 9:00 AM

### REGISTRATION

- Check-in / registration start at 8:30 am
- Bring completed **Sponsors and Registration forms** to the day-of-event.

### BRING YOUR BIKE, TRIKE, OR SCOOTER

- Bring your ride.
- Arrive early to decorate.
- Join the walk and show off your style!



The Society of St Vincent de Paul District Council of Mobile  
[svdpmobilecouncil.org](http://svdpmobilecouncil.org)

For more information call 251/223-7947

