

The St. Vincent de Paul Society Service Award

This Diocese of St. Petersburg program is designed to teach Scouts and Leaders about Frederic Ozanam and his compassion for the poor, and to persuade Scouts and Leaders to help the poor and needy by supporting and helping the St. Vincent de Paul Society. It should also encourage empathy and compassion for the needy, so that we may act in a Christ-like fashion toward our brothers and sisters from all economic groups.



ABOUT THE PATCH. . .

This patch design represents the care and compassion for the poor demonstrated by Scouts who choose to complete this program. The heart symbolizes caring and the cross symbolizes Christianity. The colors that were chosen are maroon, silver, and gold. These represent royalty, richness, and strength.



Requirements for the St. Vincent de Paul Society Service Award

No changes or modifications are to be made to this program unless a person has written consent of the Diocese of St. Petersburg Catholic Committee on Scouting.

Cub Scouts:

1. Donate food to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
2. Describe what you learned about St. Vincent de Paul Society founder, Frederic Ozanam.
3. Participate in a program such as Scouting for Food, or help out at a local St. Vincent de Paul Society food pantry, or do another service for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
4. Listen to a presentation on the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Scouts BSA, Venturers and Sea Scouts:

1. Donate food to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
2. Write a brief description on what you learned about St. Vincent de Paul Society founder Frederic Ozanam.
3. Participate in a program such as Scouting for Food, or help out at a local St. Vincent de Paul Society food pantry, or do another service for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
4. Listen to a presentation on the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Unit Leaders, Committee Members/Adults:

1. Help one or more Scouts earn the St. Vincent de Paul Society Service Award.
2. Donate food to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
3. Arrange for a St. Vincent de Paul Society representative to give a brief presentation to your pack, troop, crew, or ship.

This award was created by Eagle Scout Chris Taylor, with help and support from Mr. Michael Kosiba, Mr. Michael Murphy, Mr. Marvin Ropert, Dr. Mark Taylor, and Mrs. Cynthia Taylor. We would like to thank everyone who helped in the construction of this program. We are grateful to them all for their hard work and dedication to the important mission of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Frederic Ozanam

1813-1853

Frederic Ozanam was a model teacher, scholar, husband and father. As a teacher and scholar, he was dedicated to the truth. Frederic always lived by what he preached. He always tried to use his life in Christian action; and encouraged others to do the same. He did his best to know his faith well and live it the best he could.

Frederic Ozanam was a dedicated husband and father. The Ozanams lived a fully Christian married life of faith, hope, and love. As a father, he treasured his daughter, Marie and despite the demands on him, spent time caring for and educating the daughter who was his glorious gift from God.

In his business life and personal life, Ozanam was and still is an exceptional example of a Christian life fully lived. Ozanam has left a lasting legacy to everyone. His dedication to social reform and Christian social justice continuously moves each and every one of us deeply. His blending of his professional and spiritual life continuously challenges us daily.

The Founding of the St. Vincent De Paul Society

In 1832, a plague of Cholera swept through Paris with deaths totaling up to 1,200 people per day. Large poor areas were forming in parts of Paris; thousands of people were homeless and had diseases. Starvation was a huge problem. As a law student at the Sorbonne in Paris, Blessed Frederic Ozanam traveled through poor suburbs on his way to university classes. He soon became emotionally moved at the hopeless families who had been left without support. Frederic Ozanam gathered people to decide what could be done to help the poor. On April 17, 1833, on his twentieth birthday, Ozanam and six of his friends were challenged by an atheist student who said: “We see your priest and nuns helping the poor, but what are you doing to help them?” After the meeting, the group donated wood to a man who could not afford to buy wood to heat his apartment. The man lived above Frederic's apartment. The group was directed to this man by Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity, who also donated a voucher for bread. Words were further translated into deeds with the formation of the Conference of Charity in May 1833. Within a year, the rule and purposes of the association were formulated and the official title, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul was adopted. The group adopted the name after the patron saint of Christian giving.

Today, the St. Vincent de Paul Society has Conferences all around the world. The Society has shops, food pantries, soup kitchens, and provides services such as financial assistance. Every day they make a difference in thousands of lives. If not for Frederic Ozanam, the Society would not exist today, and countless lives would have been lost.



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I have completed the above requirements to the best of my ability,
and I will do my best to show compassion for the poor.

Date: _____

Signed: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Unit #: Pack _____ Troop _____ Crew _____ Ship _____

(Check One) Youth _____ Adult _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Please direct any questions to Kellye Keough Williams at dospsscoutingbsa@gmail.com.

To receive patches upon completion, mail this form, along with a check payable to the Diocese of St. Petersburg (\$2.50 per patch) to:

Diocese of St. Petersburg
St. Vincent De Paul Society Award
Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting
PO Box 40200
St Petersburg, FL 33743

(Please allow 4 weeks for delivery)