

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

St. Damien Conference

On July 5, the St. Damien Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in our parish recognized 25 years of service to our neighbors in Seward County.

OUR STORY

"What do you do besides talk to prove the faith you claim is in you?"

With these words, the idea for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was born. Frédéric Ozanam was a 20-year-old law student at the Sorbonne in the spring of 1833. When confronted by another student about practical applications of his Catholic faith, Ozanam was inspired to found a "conference of charity" to assist the poor.

The group adopted the name the "Society of St. Vincent de Paul" in honor of the saint revered for his work among the needy. The Society quickly established a relationship with Sister Rosalie Rendu, a member of the Daughters of Charity, who organized the distribution of aid in one of Paris's most impoverished neighborhoods. Within a few years, the original group of seven grew to 600, spreading to 15 other cities and towns in France, numbering more than 2,000 members.

Twelve years later, in 1845, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul crossed the ocean to St. Louis, Missouri, where the first American conference was formed. The first members met at the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica.

The international Society of St. Vincent de Paul today is the world's largest social assistance organization, with operations in over 140 countries on five continents. More than 800,000 Vincentian volunteers worldwide work to further Bl. Frédéric's vision to "embrace the whole world in a network of charity."

"It is our duty to prefer the service of the poor to everything else and to offer such service as quickly as possible. If a needy person requires medicine or other help during prayer time, do whatever has to be done with peace of mind. Offer the deed to God as your prayer... Charity is certainly greater than any rule. Moreover, all rules must lead to charity."

WHO WE ARE

We are a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to our neighbors in need.

Listed on the back are current and former members who have helped in our mission since its organization in 1999.

OUR IMPACT

In the last 16 years the St. Damien Conference has spent \$105,127 to help 1,876 neighbors in need. This aid has many times been in the form of rent and utility payments. Additionally over \$15,000 of food has been provided.

"No work of charity is foreign to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul."

OUR NEED

- Members – If you are interested in joining our group, please leave a message at 402-646-2299.
- Financial – Our annual cost is approximately \$9,000. All donations are used 100% to aid our neighbors in Seward County. Donations may be placed in an envelope marked for the society.
- Food – We have a small food pantry of dry goods that allows us to take some groceries when meeting with our neighbors.

"The most powerful weapon to conquer the devil is humility. For, as he does not know at all how to employ it, neither does he know how to defend himself from it."

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CURRENT MEMBERS

Msgr. Robert Tucker
Spiritual Advisor

Frank Daley

Linda Daley

Steven Haines

Jo Ann Hoffman

Sharon Jelinek

Michele Kontor

Janet Seaman

Ryan Seaman

Bernardine Schmidt

Christi ten Bensel

Ellen Varney

Camille Wanetka

FORMER MEMBERS

Dylan Bernard

Marilyn Bohaty

Eric Broer

Janet Broer

Marie Codr

Lou Eastwood

Bob Ficke

Nora Ficke

Adeline Geis

Josephine Hain

Amy Havel

Mary Heser

Jan Hoffmeister

George Hoffmeister

Paul Hughes

Mike Hurt

Rose Hurt

Colleen Kessler

Bernice Kettenburg

Chuck Kotera

Susan Kotera

Laurie Lane

Kirk McCoy

Nan McCoy

Sam McCoy

Marlene Morgan

Judy Mullally

Mike Mullally

Beverly Owens

Jerry Owens

John Owens

Patricia Payne

Jan Pogreba

Loren Pogreba

Deanna Portz

Barb Taylor

Karen Sabatka

Jim Safford

Herman Schmidt

Betty Smith

Rita Shelton

Jeremy Sousek

Cheri Underwood

Cheryl Vajgrt

Greg Walz

DeeDee Wilkinson (Novak)

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