



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action



ST LOUISE DE MARILLAC

FEAST DAY
8th May

PATRON OF

Louise is the patroness of Social Workers. As a wife, mother, teacher, nurse, social worker, mentor, spiritual leader, and foundress, she stands as a model to all women.



ABOUT THE PICTURE

Louise is drawn with the daughters of charity logo at one with her own heart, as this is where it was inspired from. The aristocratic decor in the background show what she left to serve the poor, and another sister represents the company that she encouraged through her witness.

EARLY LIFE

Louise was born on the 12th August 1591 in France. She belonged to the nobility, but her experience of personal rejection by her family as a child born outside of marriage, made her particularly sensitive to the suffering of others. She was educated from an early age and as she got older, she received further education in Paris at a place for young girls. She became one of the best educated women of her time.

AS FOR YOUR CONDUCT TOWARDS THE SICK NEVER TAKE THE ATTITUDE OF JUST GETTING THE TASK DONE. YOU MUST SHOW THEM AFFECTION: SERVING THEM FROM THE HEART.
-ST LOUISE DE MARILLAC-

WIFE, MOTHER & NUN

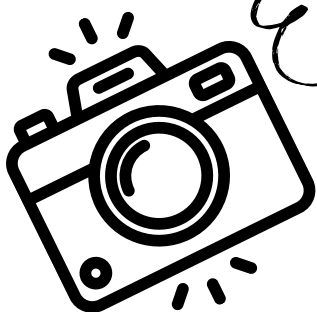
Louise had always dreamed of religious life but she was not allowed. She was married to Antoine and they had a son Michael. But Antoine died young and after his death she met St Vincent de Paul who she built a great friendship with. With Vincent, she founded the Daughters of Charity, a congregation of lay women dedicated to teaching and hospital work.

FRIENDSHIP

Louise was an answer to prayer. She was intelligent, modest, and had strength and endurance despite her poor health. Women were drawn to join her and soon there was the need for a 'rule of life,' which Louise wrote for the Daughters of Charity. Vincent said 'Your convent, will be the house of the sick; your cell, a hired room; your chapel, the parish church; your cloister, the streets of the city or the wards of the hospital.' Their dress was to be that of the peasant women. Today there are over 14,000 Daughters of Charity.

WORK UNDERTAKEN

Working with St Vincent de Paul. Together the friends cared for those who were living in poverty, and helped abandoned children who were living on the streets. Louise also opened a house where women would come and cook food to take to the prison.



ARTWORK CREATED BY FIRST SATURDAY SHOP LTD

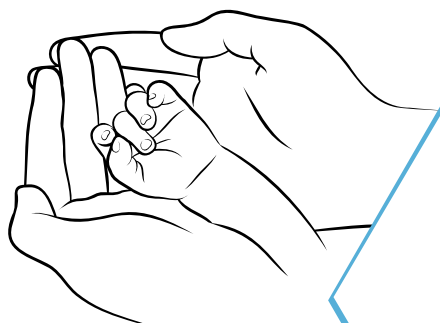
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BLESSED ROSALIE RENDU



EARLY LIFE

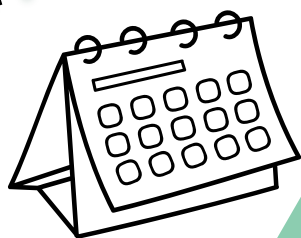
Jeanne Marie Rendu was the eldest of four girls. She was born on 9th September 1786 in Confort, France.

When she was three years old, the French Revolution broke out in France. At this time, many faithful priests were forced to run away and the Rendu family home became a place of safety for priests.

**HUNT DOWN POVERTY IN
ORDER TO GIVE HUMANITY ITS
DIGNITY.**

-BLESSED ROSALIE RENDU-

FEAST DAY
7th February



BOARDING SCHOOL

After the death of her father and baby sister, Jeanne's mother sent her to a boarding school so she could get a good education. During her two years there, Jeanne walked around the town, and one day she discovered a hospital where the Daughters of Charity cared for the sick.

GOOD MOTHER OF ALL

She opened a free clinic, a pharmacy, a school, and orphanage, a childcare centre, a home for the elderly and a youth club for young workers. She became known as the "good mother of all", and helped Frédéric Ozanam and his friends to do good works, which is how the St Vincent de Paul Society started.

Sister Rosalie never rested and continued to serve the poor until her health got worse and she became blind during the last two years of her life.

ABOUT THE PICTURE

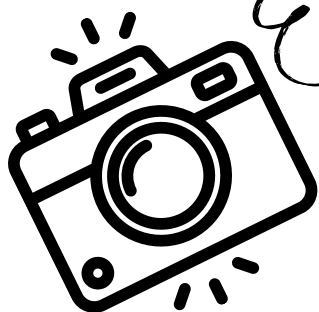
The drawing is inspired by Rosalie's words "Remember, our Lord hides behind rags," which describes how through physically caring for others with the SVP, we are directly caring for Jesus. The drawing includes moments of Rosalie's work and represents her gift of giving good advice.

CALLED TO RELIGIOUS LIFE

She spent some time at the hospital, and Jeanne soon felt called by God to become a Daughter of Charity. Jeanne joined the Daughters of Charity in 1802 when she was nearly 17 and received the name Rosalie. She took vows in 1807 to serve God and the poor, and spent over 50 years living out those vows.



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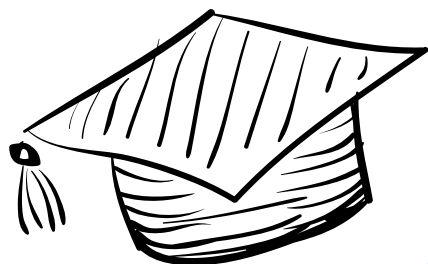
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BLESSED FRÉDÉRIC OZANAM

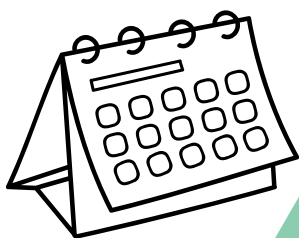


EARLY LIFE

Frédéric was born in Milan, Italy, into an affluent Catholic family on 23rd April 1813. His father was a doctor and his mother was an heiress

**DO NOT BE AFRAID
OF NEW BEGINNINGS.
BE CREATIVE. BE INVENTIVE.
-BLESSED FREDERIC OZANAM-**

FEAST DAY
9th September



ABOUT THE PICTURE

Frederic was very intelligent and not so much a practical thinker and yet, inspired by his time at university, he turned his knowledge and concern into action through working with the poor. Inspired by this, he is drawn in a debate chamber with the university behind him and is shown caring for a man with TB (which Frederic himself later died from).

His action is drawn as waves flowing from his mouth and through his hands.

CHARITY

Frédéric, who was seen as a natural leader of his fellow Catholic students, decided to take action, to show that more could be done. He started a Conference of Charity. Guided by journalist Emmanuel Bailey, the Conference members decided to live out their faith and go out and become servants of the poor, just as Jesus Christ had done. The group followed the example of St Vincent de Paul, the French saint who had done so much work to help the poor 200 years earlier, naming their Conference 'the Society of St Vincent de Paul'.

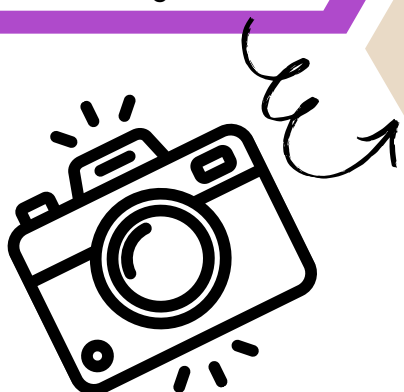
UNIVERSITY

Frédéric was a highly intelligent young man and studied Law at the Sorbonne University in Paris. During debates at his university, a number of people challenged Frédéric about what the Catholic Church was doing to help the many poor and suffering people of France. They didn't think the Church was helping very much.

SVP IN ENGLAND

The group was also inspired by a young Daughter of Charity, Rosalie Rendu, and the young men worked closely with her to help the poor people of Paris.

A friend of Frédéric Ozanam, who was studying in Paris, was George Wigley. He was born near Manchester but grew up in France. With the help of Frédéric, he started the first SVP group in England.



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ST VINCENT DE PAUL

FEAST DAY
27th September

EARLY LIFE

St Vincent de Paul was born on 24th April 1581 in France in a place called Pouy. Vincent's family wasn't very rich and they made their living by farming. Initially Vincent wanted to be rich and powerful. He wanted to help his family by sending money back home. He decided to become a priest and was ordained when he was just 19 years old.

**MAKE IT A PRACTICE TO JUDGE
PERSONS AND THINGS IN THE MOST
FAVOURABLE LIGHT AT ALL TIMES
AND UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.**
-ST VINCENT DE PAUL-

PATRON OF

Vincent is the patron saint of charitable societies. Through his ministry to the poor, St Vincent is a model for compassion and charity.



ABOUT THE PICTURE

Through his faith St Vincent became a much gentler man which is shown in the picture by him caring for children at the orphanage. The picture also shows the Daughters of Charity, and his role as a priest. The altar shows how his calling to the priesthood was a path to his work with the poor and the work of many others.

PARIS

Soon after his ordination he was allegedly captured by pirates and sold into slavery. He eventually managed to get free and, after a period in Rome, eventually found himself with a rich family in Paris called the de Gondis. It's here where he hears a dying man's confession.

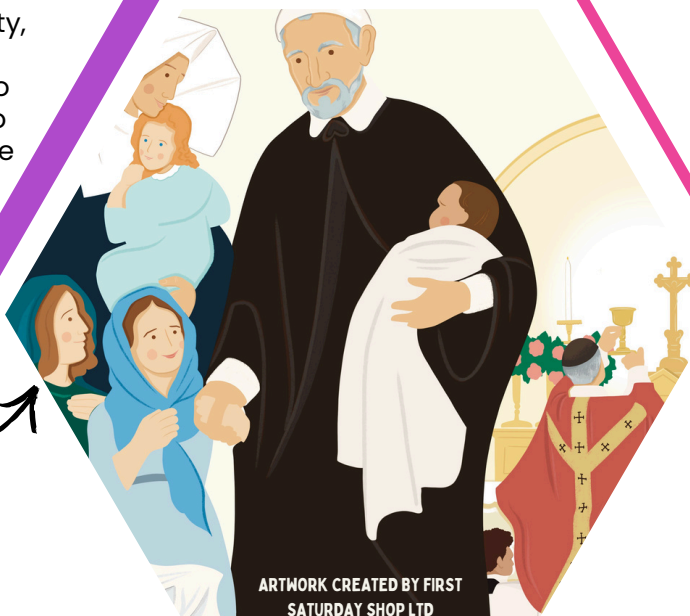
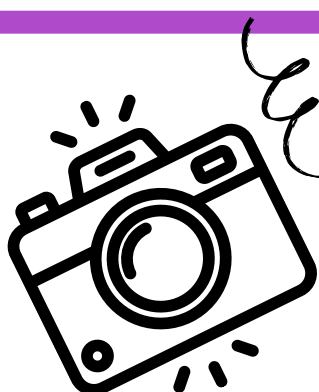
The dying man tells Vincent everything, things he'd not told another soul, things he is ashamed of. Afterwards the man feels so relieved to have been forgiven that he gathers his family around him and makes his sins known to them too.

VINCENTIAN FATHERS

Vincent is deeply affected by his experience with the dying man; he realises the need for confession and gives a series of sermons around the area guiding people towards the sacrament. It was during this time that Vincent founded the order of priests, known as the Congregation of the Mission or the Vincentian Fathers.

HIS MISSION

Vincent and his followers went on to minister to the poor, supporting them spiritually and then also with food, clothes and medicine. Later on, Vincent, with St Louise de Marillac, helps start an order of religious women called the Daughters of Charity. His mission also reaches other countries such as Poland and Algeria. Eventually after many years of love and service, he utters the name of Jesus and passes away on 27th September 1660.



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