



# Vincentian Family:



## Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

The St Vincent de Paul Society was started in 1833 by Frédéric Ozanam, a 19 year old law student at the Sorbonne University. Responding to the great poverty in the Paris of his day, he and a group of friends began visiting the homes of the poor, bringing practical assistance of food and firewood, as well as something less tangible – empathy and love. Frederic and his friends began meeting regularly and formed the first conference. They decided to adopt the name of the St Vincent de Paul Society after the patron saint of charities.



## Saint Vincent de Paul

Born into a poor family, Saint Vincent de Paul became a priest at the age of 19. He led an interesting life. At a young age, he was captured by pirates and sold into slavery. During this time, it was claimed he witnessed the terrible conditions in which slaves were forced to live. Upon becoming free, he had the opportunity to preach to the wealthy, but instead, he focused on spreading the Good News to people who were sick, orphaned, elderly, starving or abandoned. He was canonised (declared a saint) in 1737 and named the universal patron of Catholic charities in 1885.



## Saint Louise de Marillac

With St Vincent de Paul, Louise started the Daughters of Charity (an order of nuns) in 1642. The Daughters of Charity were a revolutionary order of the poor. They helped abandoned children, people who were poor and sick, wounded soldiers, slaves, people who were mentally ill and the elderly. Today, there are over 20,000 Daughters of Charity, and they continue to help people in need. Louise is the patron saint of sick people, widows and orphans, and in 1960, Pope John XXIII proclaimed her the Patroness of Social Workers.



## Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati

Was an active member of the SVP, and in his short life he sought a deep relationship with God, and expressed that in his humble service of others. Pier was known by all as the happiest of people, and until his very end he loved and served others with joy! He was an activist, a pioneer, and gave all he had to help others.



## Saint Catherine Labouré

Was a daughter of Charity and devoted her life to prayer and serving the poor. It was this humble servant that Our Lady decided to appear to, and there present the 'Miraculous Medal', which was to be struck and shared throughout the world for special graces.



## Blessed Rosalie Rendu

Jeanne Marie Rendu grew up during the French Revolution in 1789. She faced some tough times at an early age when her father and baby sister died and was forced to help her mother care for her two younger sisters. Jeanne's mother sent her to boarding school soon after. It was here she discovered the Daughters of Charity and was given the name Rosalie. As a Daughter of Charity, she opened a pharmacy, a school, an orphanage, a home for the elderly and a youth club. She became the "Good Mother of All" and worked closely with Blessed Frédéric Ozanam to perform good works for the St Vincent de Paul Society.