

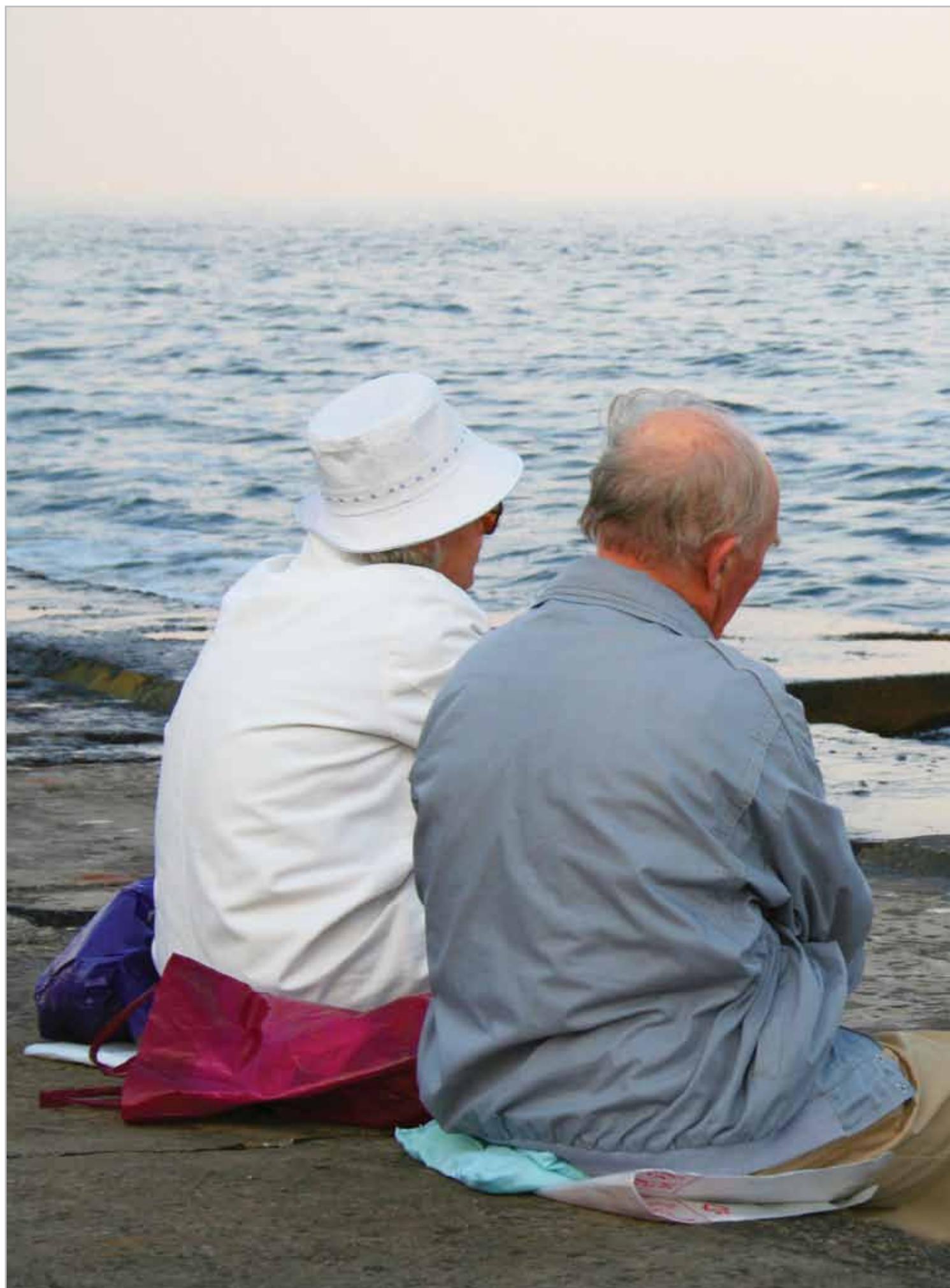
# Our Society, Our Plan

STRATEGIC PLAN 2013 - 2018

## A Platform for Change



St Vincent de Paul Society  
NSW  
*good works*



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St Vincent de Paul Society  
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# Our Society, Our Plan

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2018

### A message from our President

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**Dear Friends,**

This Strategic Plan marks the beginning of what we hope will be a period of renewal and ongoing development for the St Vincent de Paul Society in New South Wales. It provides a pathway to a more sustainable organisation, better equipped and capable of providing assistance to those in our community who need it most.

Our Society has much to be proud of and the work we have undertaken throughout our history has made a real difference in the lives of so many of society's most vulnerable people.

We are the only organisation that continues to visit our clients in their homes, also offering an alternative of support through our Vinnies Retail Centres. The Vinnies brand is so well known through the work of our Vinnies Retail Centres, which are committed to providing affordable goods and clothing to people who are struggling to cope.

We continue to provide a wide range of services to people experiencing homelessness through our Special Works, working closely with people to lead them to independent lives.

The Vinnies CEO Sleepout has raised the profile of our work with people experiencing homelessness and has generated significant funds to enable the Society to increase its capacity as a service provider. In NSW, the 2012 Vinnies CEO Sleepout involved over a 1000 CEOs and raised over \$1.8 million.

Our Society is now at a crossroads as our membership matures and we need to find new ways to attract new members that will enable our work to continue in the future. A 2012 report from our Society People database revealed that we had 4871 members and 11,895 volunteers in NSW. Of these members, 56% were aged between 50 to 79 years. In the long term, this situation is unsustainable.

When I was asked to become President of the NSW Provisional Board, one of my first concerns was that of the Society's diminishing membership. It seemed that our last attempt at any strategic plan to address similar problems was in 1994 when a paper was released entitled 'Vision 2000'.

One of my first priorities was to establish a new strategic direction, which met the expectations of our members and volunteers. In my past business experience, I was fortunate to be able to participate in the formulation of a number of strategic plans. One thing that became

apparent was that for any plan to succeed, it had to commence at the 'grass roots'.

With this in mind, consultation was conducted across Society members, volunteers, employees, clients, donors, benefactors, clergy and other external associates. The end result is this Strategic Plan; the beginning of what we hope will be a period of renewal and reinvigoration for the Society in NSW.

It is our intention, that over the next five years, the Society will develop its capacity to help those people experiencing disadvantage and marginalisation by focusing on six key strategies:

1. Strengthening our Spirituality
2. Strengthening our Service
3. Developing our Membership
4. Strengthening our Society
5. Strengthening our Partnerships
6. Raising our Voice.

While this plan provides a platform for change, our Society remains steadfastly committed to its mission of practicing the ethos of Christ's love and the charism of Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

Through a renewal in our spirituality, strengthening our faith, empowering our members, volunteers and employees, we will continue to practice these virtues with renewed commitment and vigour.

I invite all Vincentian members, volunteers and employees, to join us on this journey of transformation. This is our Society and our Strategic Plan, so we are asking each of you to help us make it a success so we can better serve those living on the margins of society.

Yours sincerely,

**Ray Reynolds**  
President, NSW State Council  
St Vincent de Paul Society

## Our Mission

The Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

## Our Vision

The Society aspires to be recognised as a caring Catholic charity offering “a hand up” to people in need. We do this by respecting their dignity, sharing our hope, and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.



## Our Spirituality

**A message from our Spiritual Adviser, Bill Johnston**

*“Charity must never look to the past, but always to the future, because the number of its past works is still very small and the present and future miseries that it must alleviate are infinite.”*

*Blessed Frederic Ozanam*

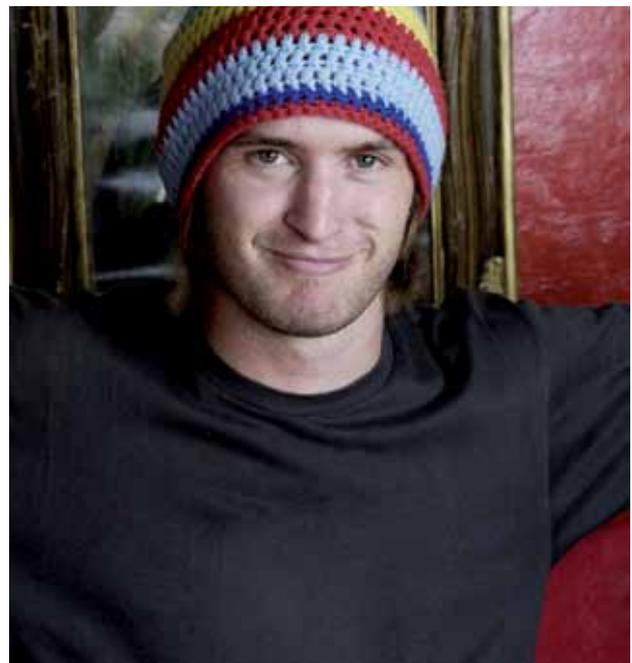
The Rule of the Society describes its spirituality as love in union with Christ, journeying together towards holiness, prayerfulness, following the example of Blessed Frederic and Saint Vincent de Paul. It proposes some essential virtues for members and volunteers, particularly love and respect for the poor.

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is acutely aware of significant changes in the patterns of religious belief and practice in wider Australian society and in Catholic Church communities. Those changes require that both the Church and the St Vincent de Paul Society reassess their engagement with the community, with members and volunteers and with those people that they seek to help.



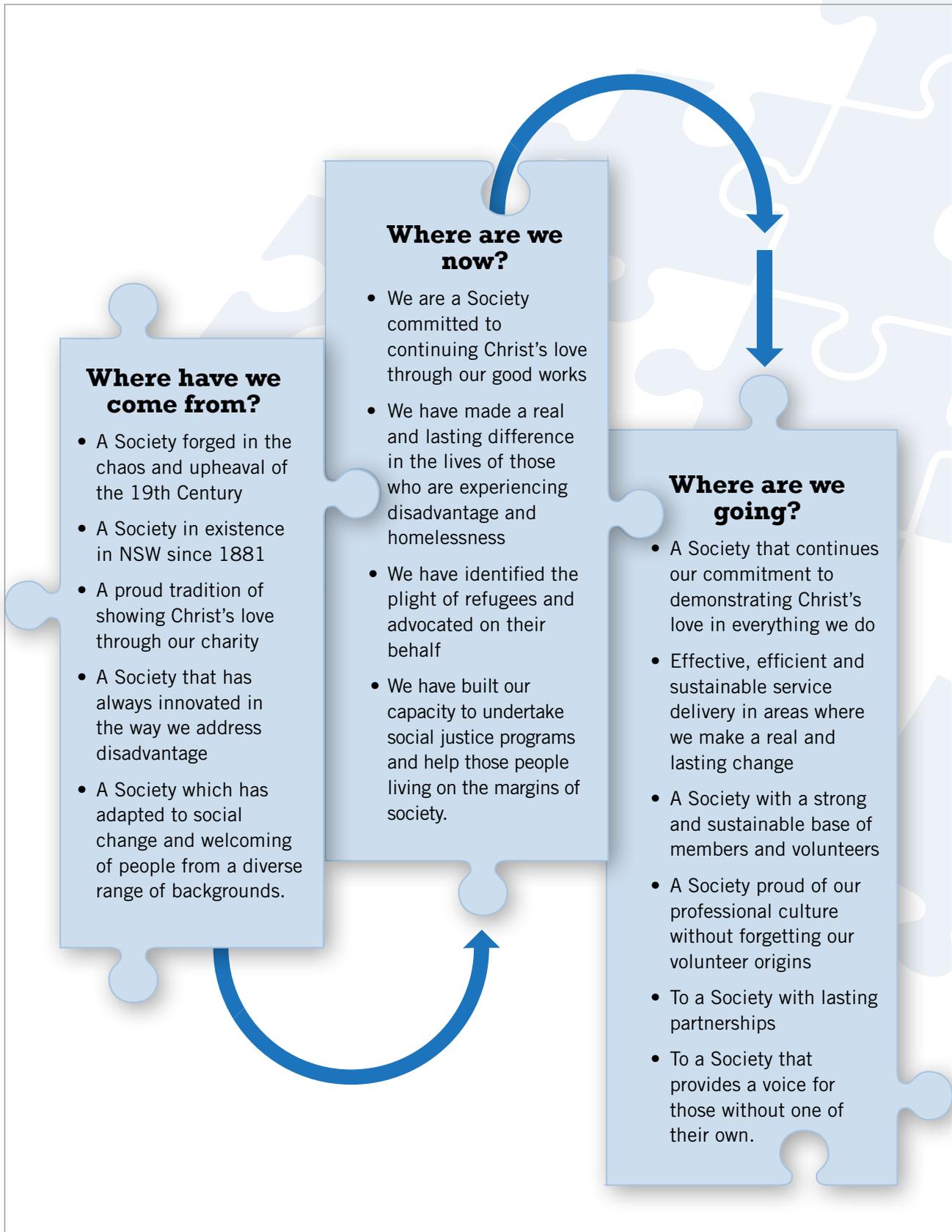
In the context of this Strategic Plan, we suggest that there are three key characteristics to underline the faith and spirituality of the Society:

- Faithful to Jesus of the Gospels in the context of the contemporary world
- Faithful to the evolving tradition of the Society as an organisation of lay Christians
- A spirituality that is radically inclusive of every person.





# Where do we want to be?



# The Society in action

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic volunteer-based organisation that makes a real difference to the lives of people who are forced onto the margins of society. The Society has been helping communities in New South Wales since 1881. Our members live and work in these communities and are there for the long-haul, helping people rebuild their lives in any way possible.

Our Conferences and services are busier than ever, as more and more people struggle to make ends meet, and cope with the demands of modern day life. Through home visitation, a tradition that has stood the test of time for over 175 years, Conference members visit people in their homes, providing support, friendship and material assistance. Importantly, members also visit people experiencing deep isolation and loneliness in hospitals, prisons and detention centres.

Through our Vinnies Retail Centres, we not only provide a visible port of call for people experiencing hardship, but also raise crucial funds that are injected straight back into the local community to help those people most at risk of falling through the cracks. The Society continues to address inequality and injustice through a

range of services including: homeless services; education and recreational programs; domestic violence services; assistance to migrants and refugees; clothing and assistance centres; mental health programs; vocational services for people with a disability; drug, alcohol and gambling counselling services; financial counselling; disaster recovery; rural services and food vans.

Many people's lives are pulled apart by social and economic structures that exclude them from participating fully in their community. By working with people and empowering them, the Society assists people to build the skills and capacity for sustainable change in their lives.



## The Society at a glance

In 2010-11 the St Vincent de Paul Society in NSW:

- Over 16,000 members and volunteers
- 418 Conferences and 215 youth and young adult Conferences
- Conference members undertook 215,000 visitations
- The Society assisted 680,000 people and provided over \$16 million worth of assistance through Conferences
- Over 100 Special Works including 23 services for men, women and children experiencing homelessness
- 254 Vinnies Retail Centres which gave over \$3 million worth of clothing and other material assistance to people in need.



## The challenges we face

As the Society continues its work in the community, it faces a number of challenges. These include external challenges such as:

- Ongoing societal changes including globalisation and modernisation, economic upheaval and changes to Australia's demographics.
- Increased professionalism of charities and the need to ensure that the Society supports the poor by being the best organisation it can be.
- Increased regulation, compliance measures and the need to demonstrate tangible outcomes.
- Increased competition for donations and volunteer time.
- The erosion of community ties and donor fatigue which impacts donations.

The Society also faces a number of internal challenges, including:

- Developing ways to enhance our organisational culture so faith is central to everything we do.
- The need to urgently attract new members and volunteers across all age groups.
- Ensuring that the Society's members and volunteers are supported in the work that they undertake.
- Developing organisational capability and capacity to respond to the increased demands on our services.
- Positioning the Society as a thought leader in the areas we specialise in.



# Meeting the challenges

It is apparent that we need to change and grow to meet both external and internal challenges and realise the mission of our Society. There is an opportunity for comprehensive renewal of the way in which the Society fulfils its mission through our faith and actions. All of us have a role to play in initiating and sustaining organisational development, strengthening the foundations of the Society through our faith, our actions and our charity.

This plan identifies six strategic goals which will position the Society as an organisation able to sustain its operations in the coming years. These areas for action are illustrated below.

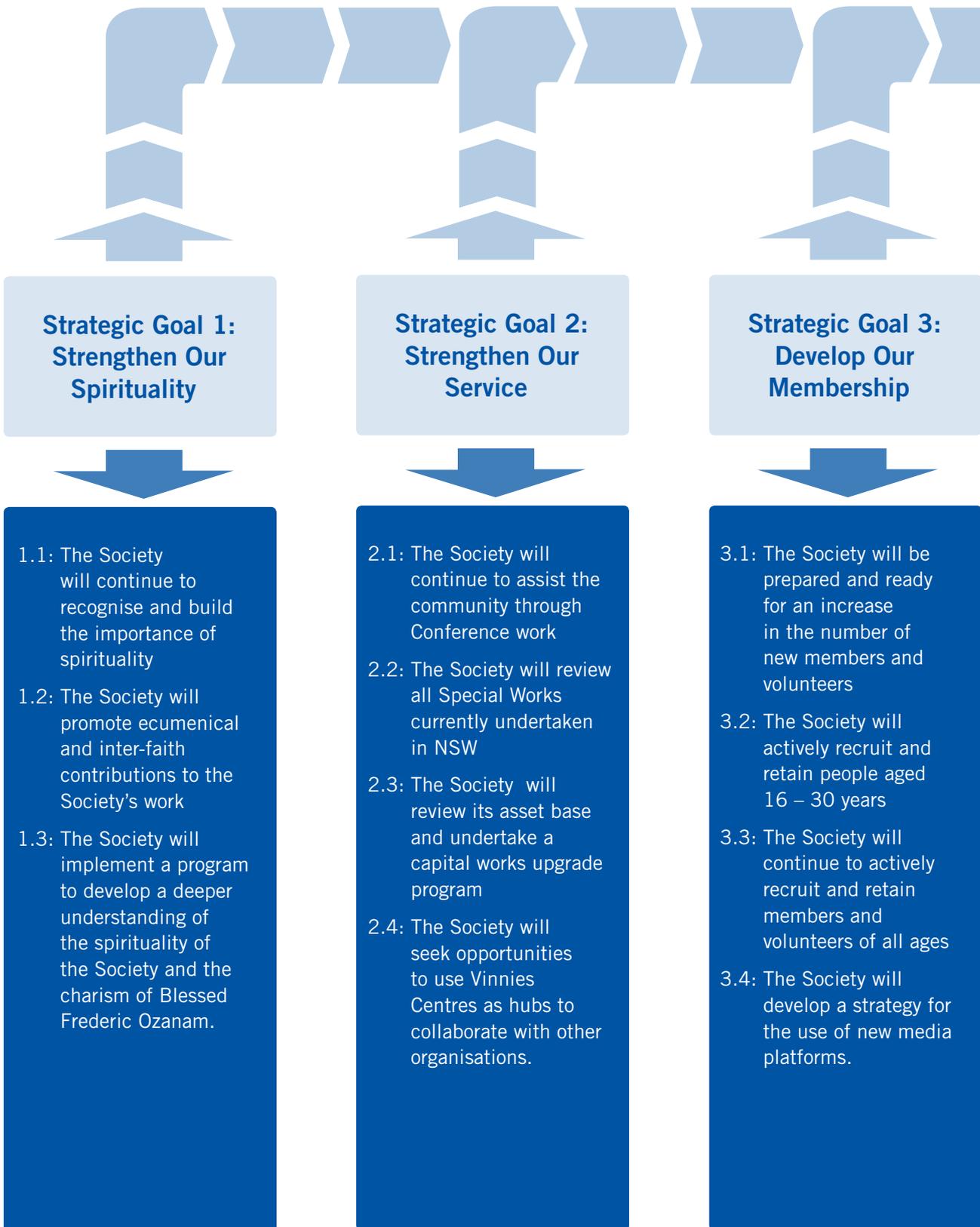
The Society will undertake these actions through sustained effort and continuous improvements in the way we deliver our services so we can achieve the best possible outcomes for the people we assist.

**Our six strategic goals are all interconnected and improvement in one strategic area will compliment improvements in other areas for change. Improvement in each area reinforces the sustainability of the other areas, contributing to the ongoing development of the Society.**





# Our Platform for Change



Live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

**Strategic Goal 4:  
Strengthen Our  
Society**

- 4.1: The NSW State Council will strengthen its role as a support mechanism
- 4.2: The Society will undertake a Training Needs Analysis to identify the training needs of members, volunteers and staff
- 4.3: The Society will better meet the information needs of members, volunteers and staff
- 4.4: The Society will prepare members and volunteers for leadership roles
- 4.5: The Society will adopt fundraising and marketing initiatives that build revenue streams.

**Strategic Goal 5:  
Strengthen Our  
Partnerships**

- 5.1: The Society will continue to develop non-government and government partnerships
- 5.2: The Society will leverage existing special events to develop partnerships with participating organisations
- 5.3: The Society will implement systems that facilitate corporate and other partnerships to enhance service delivery.

**Strategic Goal 6:  
Raise Our Voice**

- 6.1: The Society will strengthen the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee
- 6.2: The Society will develop an advocacy agenda
- 6.3: The Society will develop a program to identify individuals who can contribute to fundraising, marketing and media events
- 6.4: The Society will support members and volunteers in local-level advocacy
- 6.5: The Society will develop a media strategy which aligns with our advocacy agenda and the services of the Society.



# Goals, strategies and measures of success

The following tables detail the strategies and key measures of success which we will use to judge how successful we have been in adapting our Society to meet the challenges we face.

## 1. Strategic Goal 1 – Strengthen Our Spirituality

**We will ensure that the Society always reflects the Christian ethos of love as practiced by Jesus Christ and the charism of Blessed Frederic Ozanam. We will be a voice for justice and serve those in need as we bear witness to Christ's compassionate and liberating love.**

The Society does, and must always, reflect the Christian ethos of love as practiced by Jesus Christ. Our mission is to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with respect, justice and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society. Christ's charity was demonstrated by his actions far more than his words, and this is reflected in the commitment of members and volunteers to their Conferences and their works.

Over the next five years the Society will continue to promote its faith and the charism of Blessed Frederic Ozanam as the cornerstone of why the Society exists. The importance of our spiritual Vincentian ethos and the guiding role it plays in everything that we do will be reaffirmed to all our members and volunteers and communicated to potential members and volunteers. We recognise that deepening our spirituality is essential to our development as individuals, as a community and as an organisation.

The Society will need new members and volunteers who share the Vincentian ethos as it grows and develops. These people may not be Catholic or may not have a religious faith; just a passion for social justice and belief in our spiritual ethos. The Society will therefore continue to promote its position as an open and inclusive organisation, welcoming all people who share in the desire to provide a hand up to those that need it most. Part of this promotion will include communicating the contribution which non-Catholic members and volunteers can provide to the Society

Strategies	Key Measures of Success
1.1: The Society will continue to recognise and build the importance of spirituality in everything the Society does. The Society will also conduct a survey of the spiritual needs of its members and volunteers and ensure these are met.	<p>1.1.1: All Conferences have a spiritual adviser who is trained, and able to act as an active contributor to the works of their Conference and who understands the ethos of the Society and the philosophies of Blessed Frederic Ozanam.</p> <p>1.1.2: Recognising that faith cannot be measured in numbers, members and volunteers feel that the works they are undertaking are reflective of the Blessed Frederic Ozanam charism and the Society's ethos, commitment, and God's love of the poor.</p>
1.2: The Society will engage with Conferences to ensure there is an understanding of the role of ecumenical and interfaith contributions to the Society's work.	<p>1.2.1: Conference members and volunteers understand the contribution of people with diverse backgrounds in the Society.</p> <p>1.2.2: The Society has an increased rate of membership from individuals with diverse backgrounds and other faiths.</p>
1.3: The Society will implement a program for members, volunteers and employees to develop a deeper understanding of the spirituality of the Society and the Blessed Frederic Ozanam charism.	1.3.1: All Conference members and volunteers develop a deeper understanding of the spirituality of the Society and the Blessed Frederic Ozanam charism.

## 2. Strategic Goal 2 – Strengthen Our Service

**We will improve the delivery of our services by identifying and concentrating on the areas of need where we can make the most difference.**

The Society exists to provide a hand up to people in need and aims to deliver services which provide effective relief for the key areas in which it works. We will review the services which the Society currently undertakes in NSW to ensure that we continue to provide relevant and effective services. This review process will align membership driven works with the areas where the Society can make a lasting, positive and effective difference.

We will continue our visitations in homes and through our Centres. This will remain a strong part of our overall system of assistance. However we must review the other ways the Society provides a hand up.

To build a stronger organisation, the Society will need to review what services it offers that are not sustainable and examine ways to focus on the works that are really making an impact on the lives of people living in poverty across NSW. Whenever possible we will provide innovative services which reflect the commitment to charity as practiced by Jesus Christ.

Strategies	Key Measures of Success
<p>2.1: The Society will continue to assist the community at a Conference level through visitations and other support activities. The focus of Conference activity will be on providing a ‘hand up’ rather than a ‘hand out’.</p>	<p>2.1.1: The circumstances of families and individuals who receive Conference services improve as a result of our assistance.</p> <p>2.1.2: The assistance given to people in need increasingly involves a more holistic range of services and referrals to other organisations.</p>
<p>2.2: The Society will review all Special Works currently undertaken in NSW and develop a Special Works program which identifies the core services the Society will focus on and provide guidance to Conferences on how they can contribute to this program.</p>	<p>2.2.1: The Society’s Special Works are focused on the delivery of a number of core services.</p> <p>2.2.2: Conference members and volunteers are able to assist Special Works in the delivery of their services.</p> <p>2.2.3: The Society can demonstrate the impact of its services.</p>
<p>2.3: The Society develops an understanding of its asset base and undertakes a capital works upgrade program based on the identified needs of clients.</p>	<p>2.3.1: A capital upgrade program is implemented in line with the identified need of clients.</p>
<p>2.4: The Society will actively seek opportunities to use certain Vinnies Retail Centres as hubs to collaborate with other organisations and provide a broader range of services to people experiencing disadvantage.</p>	<p>2.4.1: The Society has developed collaborative partnerships with other organisations which broaden the use of Vinnies Centres beyond traditional retail usage.</p>



### 3. Strategic Goal 3 - Develop Our Membership

**We will build a sustainable future by retaining existing members and volunteers, attracting new members and volunteers by providing them with innovative ways to offer their services.**

The Society's approach to recruitment and retention in the coming years will determine the success and sustainability of the Society. In order for the Society to be sustainable, we must ensure that we continue to develop ways to recruit and retain people with a passion for helping those most in need. New members and volunteers of all ages are needed to ensure the Society's membership base remains strong and that the Society is still here, helping the community, this century and beyond.

Contributing to the Society's mission should be a journey that ideally starts at school and is carried through higher education, into the workforce and establishment of a family, through to retirement. The Society will continue to account for these changes in people's lifestyles and provide flexible ways for them to contribute to the Society. People who want to contribute to the Society's mission while they have other commitments will require options beyond the traditional Conference model. The Society is already looking at new and innovative ways to involve people with busy lives. As we grow we will need to find more ways to balance volunteering with life's other pressures and pleasures.

Strategies	Key Measures of Success
<p>3.1: The Society will be prepared and ready for an increase in the number of new members and volunteers. This will involve a range of tasks from delivering clear and consistent induction packages to ensuring new members and volunteers are able to undertake relevant and meaningful tasks.</p>	<p>3.1.1: All new members and volunteers are prepared, able and tasked meaningfully in line with the Society's mission.</p>
<p>3.2: The Society will actively recruit and retain 16 – 30 year olds, acknowledging the specific needs and circumstances of this group. This will require the Society to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target messages to this group</li> <li>• Identify concepts which allow flexible contributions</li> <li>• Ensure strategies and services are in place to service this group such as alternative Conference models, associate membership, e-Conferences and work or school based Conferences.</li> <li>• Ensure the range of communication methods used is appropriate to communication tools used by youth.</li> </ul>	<p>3.2.1: Membership among 16-30 year olds has increased.</p>
<p>3.3: The Society will continue to actively recruit and retain members and volunteers of all ages by identifying target groups (e.g. families, recent retirees etc.), tailoring messages and services to these groups and ensuring our services are appropriate to the particular demographics of those groups.</p>	<p>3.3.1: Membership amongst 30-55 year olds has increased.</p> <p>3.3.2: Membership amongst 55+ year olds has increased.</p> <p>3.3.3: Long-term members and volunteers feel that their service is appreciated and has been acknowledged by the Society.</p>
<p>3.4: The Society will develop a strategy for the use of social media and other new forms of communication and collaboration.</p>	<p>3.4.1: The Society is actively engaged in the use of new and emergent social media platforms to provide regular updates on Conference activities, Special Works, advocacy initiatives and the Society's spiritual ethos.</p>

## 4. Strategic Goal 4 - Strengthen Our Society

**We will strengthen our members, volunteers and employees by ensuring they are trained, prepared and supported to offer a 'hand up' to those in need.**

In the coming years the Society will encounter increased scrutiny from Government regulators. It is essential that the Society builds on its professional competency and ensures that now and in to the future it delivers its services in a way that meets its obligations to government, partners and those we help. Our donors, benefactors and people who volunteer and work with us all expect us to be the best we can be.

Over the next five years the Society will work toward increasing the level of professionalism (not corporatisation). The Society will be an organisation which is accountable for its actions and supported by improved governance processes and efficient business practices.

Increasing the level of professional competency and improving existing governance processes will provide a foundation on which to continue the traditional work and mission of the Society. We will strengthen our Society by providing opportunities for learning development, training, mentoring and leadership opportunities.

Strategies	Key Measures of Success
4.1: The NSW State Council and State Support Office will strengthen their roles as support mechanisms for the Society's members, volunteers and employees, facilitating the fulfilment of the mission of the Society.	4.1.1: Members and volunteers are confident that the NSW State Council and State Support Office are providing an increased level of support and assistance to Conference activities and Special Works.
4.2: The Society will undertake a Training Needs Analysis to determine the future training needs of its members, volunteers and employees. The Society will implement the findings of the Training Needs Analysis through the implementation of a range of new training programs and delivery methods.	4.2.1: The Training Needs Analysis has been completed and recommendations implemented.
4.3: The Society will identify the information needs of members, volunteers and employees and develop the necessary information management and communications processes, systems and channels to meet these needs.	4.3.1: Members, volunteers and employees are satisfied that their information and communication needs are being met and there are appropriate channels to ensure information can be passed up, down and across the Society.
4.4: The Society will prepare, nurture and support members and volunteers to undertake leadership roles with Regional and Central Councils. This includes ensuring that internal governance and leadership bodies have the necessary skills and experience in corporate governance.	4.4.1: The Society is compliant with government regulations relevant to the not-for-profit sector. 4.4.2: The leadership positions of the Society are desired and contested amongst our membership.
4.5: The Society will adopt national and state fundraising and marketing initiatives that build capacity and drive new and existing revenue streams.	4.5.1: National and state fundraising initiatives have been adopted and fundraising revenue has increased.



## 5. Strategic Goal 5 - Strengthen Our Partnerships

**We will strengthen our Society by building partnerships with other organisations that can help us to help others.**

In the coming years the Society will need to build strong and lasting partnerships with organisations with the capacity to provide the Society with support. Some support will come from the corporate sector in the form of advice and mentoring or corporate sponsorship. Other support will come from the partnerships we form with government, other not-for-profit organisations (particularly faith based organisations), advocacy and community groups and notable individuals. These partnerships will provide us with the ability to confidently refer those people who seek our help to the most appropriate service providers. More effective partnerships will also provide the Society with the ability to better advocate on behalf of its clients, identify areas of need and target those in collaboration with its partners.

The partnerships which the Society forms over the coming years will provide the foundation that we need to grow as a confident and sustainable organisation. The Society will increase its ability to effectively work with those seeking our assistance through the development of strategic partnerships with other not-for-profit organisations and corporate entities.

Strategies	Key Measures of Success
<p>5.1: The Society will continue to develop partnerships with other non-government organisations, community and neighbourhood groups, government agencies, corporate organisations and individuals. These partnerships will be established in collaboration with the National Council and reflect our Rule (specifically articles 4, 5, 6 and 7 of Part 1). Clear guidance and assistance will also be provided to Conferences to ensure these partnerships are used and those in need are being referred to other organisations who are better prepared to offer assistance.</p>	<p>5.1.1: The Society has formed partnerships for service delivery and client referral with other non-government organisations and community groups.</p> <p>5.1.2: The Society has formed strategic partnerships with corporate organisations, government and individuals for donations, advice, advocacy, mentoring and potential volunteers.</p> <p>5.1.3: Conferences are using established partnerships and referring individuals to other organisations where an individual's needs can be better met by other organisations.</p>
<p>5.2: The Society will leverage existing special events and opportunities to develop partnerships with participating organisations.</p>	<p>5.2.1: Partnerships have been developed directly based on an organisation's participation in Society led special events such as the Vinnies CEO Sleepout.</p>
<p>5.3: The Society will implement systems that facilitate corporate and other partnerships to enhance service delivery.</p>	<p>5.3.1: Systems are in place and members, volunteers and employees are utilising new partnerships.</p>

## 6. Strategic Goal 6 - Raise Our Voice

### We will raise our voice through our actions and advocacy.

The Society has a long and proud history of advocating for social justice in NSW. Our reputation is founded on the idea that we will always be a voice for those without one and speak out against injustice with the courage and commitment demonstrated by Jesus Christ. The Society should celebrate who we are and the good works that we have undertaken. Through that celebration we will increase public awareness of who we are and the needs of those we help, and we will build support amongst the community for our efforts.

The Society will continue to enhance its capability to raise its voice for those most in need and give them a voice. This will be enabled by enhancing our capacity to undertake research and highlight social inequities. We will work toward providing solutions to the problems we see and will generate discussion on those solutions through continued engagement with the media, community groups, government and the public.

Whenever possible we will seek to influence policy development to the betterment of those without access to decision makers. We will speak with courage and commitment about our faith and its role in the works we undertake. Through our faith and our commitment to offering a hand up we will develop messages of hope founded on practicable and implementable solutions to the problems we see in the world.

Strategies	Key Measures of Success
6.1: The Society will strengthen the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee.	6.1.1: The Social Justice and Advocacy Committee is supporting the Society's advocacy agenda and activities.
6.2: The Society will develop an advocacy agenda consistent with the National Council's advocacy activities. The NSW State Council's advocacy agenda should inform the key areas where the Society focuses its advocacy efforts nationally.	6.2.1: The Society's position on social justice issues is reflected in public opinion and policy discussions.
6.3: The Society will develop a program to identify current members and volunteers who have the knowledge, skills and desire to conduct and contribute to fundraising, marketing and media events.	6.3.1: The program has been rolled out and selected individuals are actively engaging with print, internet, television and radio media outlets to deliver key advocacy messages.
6.4: The Society will support members and volunteers in local-level advocacy which identifies grass-root and community issues which require the attention of the Society and the broader community.	6.4.1: The Society's members and volunteers feel empowered to contribute to the advocacy agenda by highlighting local issues which require the attention of the Society and are engaging in advocacy activities.
6.5: The Society will develop a media strategy which is consistent with our needs and advocacy agenda, and the services we provide.	6.5.1: The Society's position on social justice issues receives media exposure and positively reflects the services we provide.



# Implementing our strategic plan

A Strategic Plan Implementation Committee will oversee the implementation of our Strategic Plan and monitor progress against the strategies and key measures of success outlined in this plan.

A key component of the implementation process will be the development of an Action Plan which details exactly how we will achieve the strategic goals outlined in this document. The Action Plan will outline the tasks, milestones, timeframes and responsibilities required to achieve these strategies. It will also detail how the Society will achieve the key measures of success discussed in this document. Importantly, the Action Plan will link the Strategic Plan to our day-to-day work, ensuring the Strategic Plan is not isolated from what we do.

To make the necessary changes and ensure the long-term success and sustainability of our Society, we will need to constantly evaluate our progress against this Strategic Plan. As such, we will regularly report our success against the key measures identified in the Strategic Plan and communicate this with our members, volunteers and employees. We will establish the necessary mechanisms so that the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee and importantly, all of our members and volunteers, remain alert for new opportunities to make our Society stronger and better able to deliver services to those who need them most.



## Prayer for the Canonisation of Blessed Frederic Ozanam

In September 2012 a report was released by Amin A. de Tarrazi, Chairman of the Commission for the cause of canonisation of Blessed Frederic Ozanam. This report included the final and official prayer for the canonisation.

The report explains “the enclosed prayer we presently suggest, with the full agreement of our President General, is the synthesis of a long patient and careful thought of several protagonists.”

Chairman de Tarrazi hopes that Blessed Frederic Ozanam’s birthday bicentenary, in 2013, will “warm up our enthusiasm and strengthen our zeal so that, thanks to our joined endeavours, we shall be able, as soon as possible, to invoke St Frederic Ozanam!”

*Lord,*

*You made Blessed Frederic Ozanam a witness of the Gospel, full of wonder at the mystery of the Church.*

*You inspired him to alleviate poverty and injustice and endowed him with untiring generosity in the service of all who were suffering.*

*In family life, he revealed a most genuine love as a son, brother, husband and father.*

*In secular life, his ardent passion for the truth enlightened his thought, writing and teaching.*

*His vision for our society was a network of charity encircling the world and he instilled St Vincent de Paul’s spirit of love, boldness and humility.*

*His prophetic social vision appears in every aspect of his short life, together with the radiance of his virtues.*

*We thank you Lord, for those many gifts and we ask, if it is your will; the grace of a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Frederic Ozanam.*

*May the Church proclaim his holiness, as a saint, a providential light for today’s world!*

*We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

*Amen.*



**Blessed Frederic Ozanam**

(1813 - 1853)

Founder of St Vincent de Paul Society



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*

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**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
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