



KNOW THE HISTORY



St. Vincent de Paul
1581 -1660
Patron of all works of charity

Blessed Frederic Ozanam
The Society Founder 1813 -1853
"In my life I want to become better and do a little good."

185 years of Caring for the Poor

The **SSVP is an international organisation of Catholic lay people**, men and women, who practice Christianity by helping those in need on a person to person basis. Frederic Ozanam and some young friends founded the Society in Paris on **23 April 1833**. The essence of the Society is personal service and commitment. The Society is named after St Vincent de Paul the **Patron Saint of all Charities** whose life was devoted to helping the underprivileged.

The **Society came to Scotland a mere twelve years** after its establishment in Paris. On the **25th May 1845**, the first Scottish Conference met in Edinburgh, in the rooms of the Guild of St. Joseph,

The **first Conferences in Paisley** were St Mirin's Cathedral and St Mary's Greenock (1853). Today there are in total 33 Conferences, 270 members - 177 brothers and 93 sisters and many volunteers / helpers. **Worldwide**, the Society has grown rapidly. From seven founder **members in 1833**, currently there are over **40,000 Conferences** with in excess of **800,000 members**.

The dream of Ozanam has been fulfilled: **"I would like to embrace the world in a network of charity."**

Jim McKendrick, National President

SSVP (Scotland) STRUCTURES

National Council **Seven Dioceses** - St. Andrews & Edinburgh – Glasgow – **Paisley** – Dunkeld – Aberdeen – Motherwell - Galloway

Diocese of Paisley Diocesan Council – Inverclyde Group – Paisley Group – four Special Works Conferences other SSVP local projects include Clothing / Provision of Food ... Furniture... Dementia...

The Diocese of Paisley has 29 local Conferences, TEN located in Inverclyde Group Area and NINETEEN in the Paisley Group Area. There are also FOUR Special Works Conferences and various other diocesan and local projects.

JOIN US - Make a difference for others

