

Dear Friends,

Earlier this month the St. Vincent de Paul Society commemorated the feast day of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, the 19th century founder of the society.

In the fall of 1831 Frédéric Ozanam left home to study law at the University of Sorbonne in Paris. Along with a man named Emmanuel Bailly, Frédéric revived a university organization once suspended. The club was known as "The Conference of History," and it became a turning point in his life. In this club, Catholics, atheists, and agnostics debated the issues of the day. Once, after Frédéric spoke about Christianity's role in civilization, one member said: "Let us be frank, Mr. Ozanam; let us also be very particular. What do you do besides talk to prove the faith you claim is in you?"

The question hit Frédéric hard. He soon decided that his words needed to be grounded in action. He and a friend began visiting Paris tenements, offering assistance as best they could. Soon Frédéric founded a group dedicated to helping individuals in need under the patronage of St. Vincent de Paul. Originally it was known as the "Conference of Charity," not long after, though, they changed their name to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in honor of their patron.

Next month on Saturday, October 7th, our SVdP Conference, St. Katherine Drexel, is sponsoring their annual Friends of the Poor Walk/Run at the Calverton School Athletic Field. Their goal for this year's walk/run is \$15,000. I will be walking and hope you will too. To register for the walk/run just do one of two things: 1. Go to www.jesusdivineword.org and click on the link to the Friends of the Poor Walk/Run on our home page or 2. Go to the www.fopwalk.org and follow the directions outlined.

If you cannot walk or run but would still like to make a donation, I am trying to raise \$300 this year and would ask you to please consider sponsoring me. To do so, you can either make a donation through the Friends of the Poor website, or mail/drop your donation to the office. Checks can be made out to "St. Vincent de Paul Society," and on the memo line write: Sponsor Donation: Fr. John.

Frédéric Ozanam believed that every man, woman, and child was too precious to live in poverty. I believe we all feel as Frédéric did. Thank you for your support of our SVdP Society and for all you do to assist the poor in Calvert County and around the world. By serving the poor we truly serve our God.

Peace and blessings,
Fr. John