



# VINNIES YOUTH HANDBOOK

*This handbook belongs to:*

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**Vinnies Youth** are a Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) group in a school who get together to help people in need within their school and local community.



*Why should you join*

**VINNIES  
YOUTH?**

- You will make a real difference to people who need your help.
- You will learn about some of the problems that are around you and how you can help to make a difference.
- You will set a good example as a role model for others to follow.
- You will meet nice people and have fun.

## OPENING PRAYER

**President** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit

**All** Amen

**President** Holy Spirit, guide us in our meeting.

**All** Our Father, who art...

**All** Lord, thank you for our gifts and talents.  
Lord, show us who needs out help.  
Lord, use our hands to help those who are hungry  
Lord, open our hearts to love and comfort those who are sad and lonely.  
Lord, let us share our time, gifts and talents with those in need.  
Lord, help us to care for the sick.  
Lord, may we all help and support each other and Vinnies Youth to build a better world.

**President** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## CLOSING PRAYER

**President** In the name of the Father...

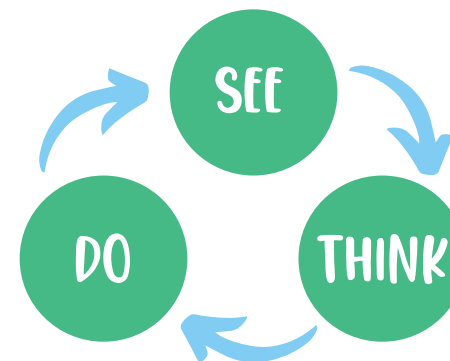
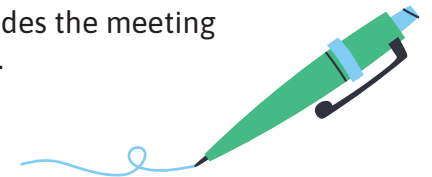
**All** Amen

**President** Dear Lord, be with us during this week, help us be better Vinnies Youth. Amen.



## The MEETING

- 1** The president opens the meeting with a prayer.
- 2** A short spiritual reading / reflection / piece of music / meditation follows. The group members could take turns to do this.
- 3** Group members then talk about the activities they have done since the previous meeting.
- 4** Any future plans are then discussed, including the next meeting date.
- 5** The president concludes the meeting with a closing prayer.



### RESOURCES

Scan the QR code or visit [www.vinniesyouth.org.nz](http://www.vinniesyouth.org.nz) for meeting plans and other handy resources.



## *The Patron*

# Saint Vincent de Paul

24 April 1581 – 27 September 1660

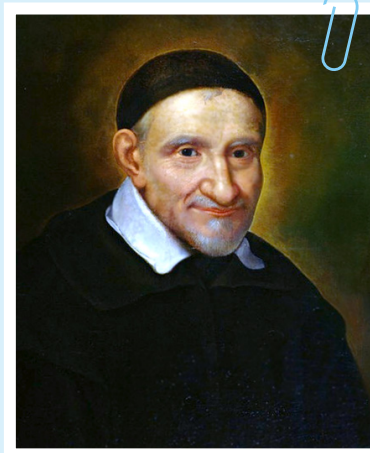
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Vincent was born to a peasant family in France. Although he later achieved fame for his dedication to the poor, his early life was spent attempting to escape his humble roots. His family shared his ambition, hoping that a career in the priesthood would better the family fortune. Soon after becoming a priest, Vincent was captured by pirates and sold into slavery. Once free, and after a period of time in Rome, he found himself in Paris. Upon hearing a dying man's confession, Vincent's heart changed, and he chose to spend his life sharing the Good News that God loves us all.

He spent the rest of his life dedicated to serving the poor. He was reknown for his compassion, humility and generosity.

The Society was named after Saint Vincent de Paul and follows his teachings and compassion for people in need.

**Vincent's life is a great reminder that we can all follow in his footsteps of love and service to others.**



## *The Founder*

# Frédéric Ozanam

23 April 1813 – 8 September 1853

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In 1833, as a 20 year old student in Paris and a devout Christian, Frédéric was questioned on what he was doing to help the marginalised in society apart from preaching to others. In a discussion one day, Frédéric was asked to say what the Catholic Church was doing for the poor in France. Frédéric was embarrassed. He knew in his heart that the Church was doing very little.

His response was to gather a group of friends to help him deliver fire wood and clothing to people on the streets. He realised that Christianity was about actions, not just words. The small group decided to adopt the name The Society of St Vincent de Paul. One group turned into many throughout France and then the world, becoming what are known as 'Conferences' today.

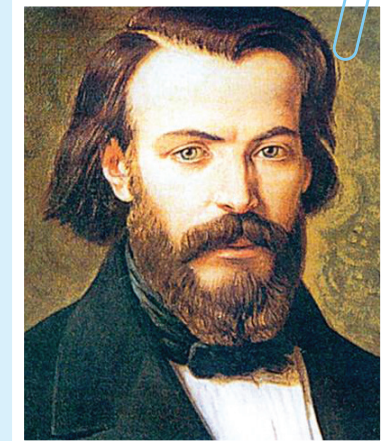
**Conference is a French word meaning "coming together".**



A Conference is a group of people who get together on a regular basis to meet and discuss ways to address particular needs in their community.

**"I would like to embrace the whole world in a network of charity."**

- Frédéric Ozanam



# Your COMMITMENT

The main quality of being a member of Vinnies Youth is commitment. That means regularly working to help those in need and trying to attend all the group's meetings. Your group's main responsibilities are:

**A** To meet together (usually once a week) to discuss and plan your activities in the local community.

**B** To help people in need through the activity chosen for your group.

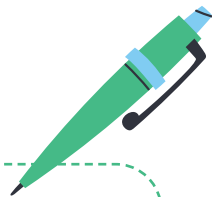
**C** To play a leading role in organising charity and fundraising events in your community or school.

*Are you up for the challenge?*

If so, sign up below and become a member.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**We** can change the world.  
With just our hands and  
our hearts.



[www.vinniesyouth.org.nz](http://www.vinniesyouth.org.nz)