



SOCIETY OF
ST VINCENT DE PAUL

003-193-NPO
REGISTERED
PUBLIC BENEFIT ORGANISATION (P.B.O.)
www.ssvp.org.za

c/o Frederic Place
28 Riversdale Street
Coronationville
Johannesburg, 2093
South Africa

P.O. Box 88152
Newclare, 2112

Celebrating 170 Years of Faith, Compassion and Service

Heartfelt congratulations to the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul South Africa** on the remarkable celebration of our **170th birthday, 17th November 2026**.

For 170 years, the Society has been a beacon of **hope, compassion and Christian service**, reaching out to those experiencing poverty, hardship, loneliness and vulnerability, and recognising the dignity of every person.

As **St. Vincent de Paul** reminds us:

“Let us love God, my brothers, let us love God, but let it be with the strength of our arms and with the sweat of our brows.”

These powerful words capture the essence of the Vincentian vocation: **faith expressed through action and love demonstrated through service**.

This same spirit was beautifully affirmed by St. John Paul II when he beatified Frédéric Ozanam, founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris on 22 August 1997. Speaking about Ozanam's response to people in need, the Holy Father declared:

“The neighbour is every human being without exception.”

He went on to explain that Frédéric Ozanam **“believed in love, the love of God for every individual”** and that in reaching out to those most in need of love, **“he found his road to sanctity.”**

These words remain deeply relevant to the Vincentian mission today. They remind us that service to people in need is more than an act of generosity. It is an expression of our Christian faith and a pathway through which God's love becomes visible in our communities.

This historic **170-year milestone** is therefore a tribute to the generations of **Vincentians, volunteers, benefactors, clergy and supporters** who have generously given their time, talents and resources in service to others.



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National Board:

Vincent Williams (National President), Jerome Soobrayan (Deputy National President, East Region), Trevor Loxton (Deputy National President, West Region), Roy Hawkins (Clergy Liaison), Mike Allen (Treasurer), Kevin Barnard (Legal), Victoria Manuel (Safeguarding), Anne Dunn (Communications), Terry-Lu Barlow (Training), Ronelle Govender (Aggregation & Twinning), Ofentse Mahasha (National Youth President), Phumano Khetsi (Secretary)
Spiritual Advisor – Msgr. Simon Donnelly





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As we celebrate this extraordinary anniversary, may we **look back with gratitude**, remembering those who laid the foundations of the Society; **celebrate with joy** the countless lives that have been touched; and **look forward with hope**, renewing our commitment to serve those who need us most.

May the example of **St. Vincent de Paul** and **Blessed Frédéric Ozanam** continue to inspire every Vincentian too:

Serve with humility.

Act with compassion.

Protect human dignity.

Bring hope to those in need.

And above all, **put our faith into action.**

Fraternally yours in both St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frédéric Ozanam

Vincent Williams



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