

FOOTSTEPS OF FREDERIC

A Vincentian Leadership Experience

'In my life I want to become better and do a little good.'
Bl. Frédéric Ozanam



St Vincent de Paul Society
VICTORIA

good works

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HOW TO APPLY

vinnies.net.au/vic/footsteps

Applications open August 27
Applications close October 2

schools@svdp-vic.org.au

About the Footsteps of Frederic Leadership Program



The Footsteps of Frederic Program is a practical and formative development opportunity for young people passionate about social justice to serve those in need and develop as a leader. Participants build relationships with other volunteers, and the people they assist to better understand how they can impact the community in a positive way. These young leaders will offer new ideas and enthusiasm and promote the youthful spirit of the Society.

The program is framed around the 4 key areas of compassionate service, relationships & leading others, learning & reflecting and innovation. Participants choose their own pathways as they journey through the program and are supported by SVDP staff to complete each component.

Participants are encouraged to commit to this program while simultaneously undertaking tertiary study and/or work commitments.

Applications for the 2021 program are open for students completing Year 12 in 2020.

Check out the Footsteps of Frederic retreat video on YouTube - <https://bit.ly/2JRtwDk>



The St Vincent de Paul Society

Our Mission

The St Vincent de Paul 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 Values

Commitment

Respect

Empathy

Compassion

Integrity

Advocacy

Courage

Who was Frederic?

The Society was formed in a time of great social unrest...

Paris of the early 19th century was in the grip of turmoil following the French revolution of 1789. Huge slum areas were forming in Paris and homelessness, disease, and starvation were common.

A young student, Frederic Ozanam would walk through the slums on his way to university lectures each day and he soon became deeply moved by the families struggling to put bread on the table.

Frederic's passionate faith was at odds with the widespread distrust of the Church. Following the 1789 Revolution, the religious population of France decreased by 80%. The university where Frederic studied was full of young atheists, eager to shout down anyone extolling the virtues of the Catholic Church. Frederic took up this challenge and debated his fellow students on the importance of the Church but was stumped by the taunt of an anti-religious opponent, who said: "What are you doing now for the poor? Show us your works!" Frederic left the debate stung by the words but inspired to take action.

For his first act of charity, Frederic and his flat mate took the remainder of their winter wood supply and dropped it on the doorstep of a widower and left without greeting the elderly man. They were challenged to return to the widower, to meet face-to-face, acknowledge his dignity and offer their friendship.

They gathered a group of friends to meet weekly as a 'Conference of charity' committed to prayer and service. They decided to name their society after Saint Vincent de Paul, the Patron Saint of charity. Frederic's visit with the widower became the model for their core work. He devoted himself to serving the poor, determined to put his faith into action.

It did not take long for the Society to inspire others to join with new conferences spreading throughout France and the world. The first Conference started in Australia in 1854, in Melbourne.

Ozanam proved with his life that the actions of one young person can change the world.



About the Participants

The Footsteps of Frederic program has been designed to offer a practical and spiritual leadership development opportunity to young people looking to put their faith in action. The St Vincent de Paul Society recognises the importance of young voices and young leaders in the community. A Footsteps of Frederic participant is driven by a desire to serve those in need with humility. They recognise the importance of pursuing both charity and justice in their service, upholding the dignity of all people in their work. They value the ideas, support and friendship of those around them and will look for opportunities to utilise the talents of the groups and communities they work with to achieve common goals.



Eligibility

The program is open to students who are completing Year 12 in 2019. Admissions to the program are based on merit, following a written application process. 20 places are available for the 2021 program.

Commitment

The program will run for approximately 12 months, with the first official meeting of participants taking place on November 17 for induction. Commitments throughout the program include participation in a 3 day leadership camp on January 28 - 30 2020, 3 x learning days and 10 (or equivalent) volunteering sessions.

Benefits for Participants

- Develop confidence, knowledge and skills
- Experience leadership roles and responsibilities
- Volunteer in a variety of St Vincent de Paul Society programs
- Develop personally and professionally to benefit further studies and working life

Benefits for Schools

- Students finishing Year 12 can maintain their social service contributions
- Students continue spiritual formation after school
- The program supports the transition from school led social justice activities to an individual commitment to service and helping others
- The program offers a lived experience of Catholic social teaching

Program Framework



“True leadership emerges from those whose primary motivation is a deep desire to help others.”

Larry C. Spears

Practicing Servant Leadership

“You [The poor] are our masters, and we will be your servants.”

Bl. Frederic Ozanam

Course Components

1. COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

Values: Commitment and Compassion



Volunteering regularly

100 credits = 10 elective sessions
(10 credits accumulated per elective session)

Blessed Frederic Ozanam had a vision of a group of compassionate people who went into their community to reach out to those in need. His thinking was centred around practical help and an offer of friendship to those suffering and it required a commitment from the people involved.

The St Vincent de Paul Society today would not be able to operate without the immensely valuable contribution and commitment of its members and volunteers. Footsteps of Frederic participants have the opportunity to experience the joy that comes from sharing their time and talents.

Volunteering Opportunities - Home visits, tutoring, children's programs, Soup Van, and many more...



2. INNOVATION

Values: Courage



Vincenian Innovation Project (VIP)

100 credits

Blessed Frederic Ozanam was no stranger to innovation. At a time of great need, he was able to start a model of service in visiting the poor in their homes. Though many doubted the impact that he and his 6 friends could have, the St Vincent de Paul Society is now a worldwide movement which has grown over the last 180 years and operates in over 140 countries.

Footsteps of Frederic participants are asked to plan a project that will benefit people in need. Participants will be guided in the SEE, THINK, DO method of action to plan a meaningful project that responds to needs in the community, embraces subsidiarity and acknowledges the dignity of all those involved.

Examples:

- Develop a social media plan to promote social justice awareness
- Organise a community fundraising event or sleepout
- Develop a proposal for a new Vincenian work

3. LEARNING & REFLECTING

Values: Commitment and Integrity



Learning

50 credits = participation in 3 x learning days

Reflection

50 credits = 500 word reflective written piece or video presentation on personal leadership learning and experience throughout the FOF program



Blessed Frederic Ozanam was a leader who inspired others to join him. He articulated a vision, he was committed to his work, he dedicated his talents and skills to helping others and he believed that he could make a difference.

Footsteps of Frederic participants are asked to be leaders who embody the values of the Society in their service of others and in the way they lead groups of people. Leadership is not something that we are born with, it is something we learn and it develops as we practice it. Footsteps of Frederic participants are invited to reflect on

their own leadership style and the choices they make in order to consider the choices they make and be open, honest and empathetic in their interactions with others.

4. RELATIONSHIPS & LEADING OTHERS

Values: Respect and Advocacy



Leadership Retreat

50 credits

Participation in 3 day retreat

Leadership Practice

50 credits

Commitment to developing your leadership skills during the program

Blessed Frederic Ozanam was a leader for his times and a leader whose qualities still inspire us today. He started assisting others without knowing the great impact his work would have and there were many times of doubt and frustration on his journey. He had to seek guidance and support from those around him, inviting advice from key people like Blessed Rosalie Rendu and Emmanuel Bailly in order to share in their wisdom.

Ozanam pursued his vision with the support of a close group of friends. It is important to recognise that a leader does not work alone and that all great leaders achieve their goals through the support of others who are committed to a collective vision. A leader's role is to serve those they lead with humility, empathy and openness.

Potential leadership roles – Event leader, conference president, retreat facilitator, State Youth Team positions and more...

Application Process & Calendar

All students completing Year 12 in 2020 are invited to apply for the 2021 program. Applicants are required to answer a series of short answer questions to determine their suitability for the program. The questions will ask applicants to reflect on their ideas about leadership, their commitment to social justice and their own personal gifts. A community service/social justice resume, detailing experience both within and outside school settings is optional as is a written reference from a teacher or community leader. Once applications close, follow-up phone interviews may be made to candidates before final places are offered.

APPLY NOW

vinnies.net.au/vic/footsteps

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

October 2

Program Calendar

Applications Close	October 1 2020
Places Offered	October 8 2020
Induction Day Location: Online	14 & 17 October 2020
Leadership Retreat *Compulsory	TBC due to Covid-19
3 x Learning days	2021 (TBC)
Graduation	November 2021 (TBC)

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