



Helping  
the young

Supporting  
families in need

Visiting  
the lonely

# WILL YOU

## REMEMBER SVP IN YOUR WILL?

With a gift in your Will to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you will help build a better future for people in need and create lasting solutions to tackle poverty.



Society of St Vincent de Paul

# Putting your 'Will' power to good work

## A practical direct approach to dealing with poverty

Established in Ireland in 1844, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is Ireland's largest and best-known voluntary charitable organisation.

The Society was founded by **Frederic Ozanam** in France in 1834. St. Vincent de Paul was chosen for the new Society as its patron saint.

## Giving time, talents and resources to help those in need

Frederic Ozanam laid down the instruction that SVP volunteers must give of themselves, through their time, talents and resources to help people in need when he said:

*“ The poor person is a unique person of God's fashioning with an inalienable right to respect. You must not be content with tiding the poor over the poverty crisis. You must study their condition and the injustices which brought about such poverty with the aim of a long-term improvement.”*

## Our mission seeks to eliminate the causes of poverty

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul promotes self-sufficiency, empowering people to help themselves.

Today, there are 1,250 local active units of the Society at work in Ireland. These local units are called "Conferences" and collectively have over 11,000 volunteer members, who make more than 400,000 visits to homes throughout every parish in the country every year.

All assistance offered by SVP is given in a non-judgemental spirit, carefully based on the needs of each individual or family seeking help.

## With your support we can build a better future

Each year the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Ireland helps hundreds of thousands of people nationwide who are struggling to put food on the table, to heat their homes, to pay for their children's education or pay for basic health care costs or other essential bills.

Sadly, today there is a worrying spirit of hopelessness frequently encountered by our volunteer members as they meet people all over Ireland juggling their weekly bills to decide what should be paid for.

### But it's not all about paying bills.

Poverty today comes in many different forms. It encompasses any circumstance which prevents an individual from living with dignity and excludes him or her from ordinary life and activities. With the support of so many good and caring people like you we are working to make Ireland a fairer place for everyone to live in.

## SVP's vision for a fairer Ireland

Our vision is for a nation where caring for each other and our children, older people and people with disabilities is valued and supported; where individuals, families and communities can participate fully in work and society; and where an adequately resourced state, a strong economy, employment and business support the type of society that we wish everyone to live in.

## Accomplish by love what justice alone cannot do

*“ The question which is agitating the world today is a social one. It is a struggle between those who have nothing and those who have too much. It is a violent clash of opulence and poverty which is shaking the ground under our feet. Our duty as Christians is to throw ourselves between these two camps in order to accomplish by love what justice alone cannot do.”*

This defining statement was made by Frederic Ozanam in 1834.



**Frederic Ozanam**  
Founder of the Society  
of St. Vincent de Paul.

# By leaving a gift to SVP in your Will, you will make a lasting difference to the lives of the people in need in Ireland:

**By letting your support live on in a wonderful way**

*“Your gift in your Will ensures your legacy will live on into the future and enables us to make plans for projects that will make a long lasting and significant difference to those we support.”*

**Andy Heffernan - National Secretary SVP**

**By helping the future work of SVP**

*“If SVP is to thrive over the next twenty years, its future must not simply be seen in terms of providing a quality service to people in need. We must do that, but we must do more: we need to re-imagine our core work of home visitation...*

*...this would mean a shifting from a service to people to a service between people. To do this would re-energise the work, and the benefit, of both the visitor and the visited.”*

**Geoff Meagher - National President SVP**

**By helping us to always be there when we are needed most**

*“They are brilliant people, I wasn't ashamed or afraid. I went for help to the Society of St Vincent de Paul and they helped me out”* she told the show's presenter, Ryan Tubridy, who agreed with her that people in difficulty should not be reluctant to approach SVP.

**Dolores Keane paying tribute to SVP on the Late Late Show.**



**By making the voice of the poor in Ireland be heard always**

*“Fifty years ago SVP was not as involved in advocacy as it is now. In the current climate, being a voice for those in need is a very important part of our activities. Without a well informed and professional input on their behalf there is a great danger that the interests of the less well-off will be neglected, and SVP has sufficient standing that its views carry weight.”*

**Liam Fitzpatrick – International Treasurer General SVP**

**By combating loneliness among the elderly in Ireland**

*“In the big sitting room on a winter’s morning there is a comfortable fire, newspapers, magazines and books are out and there is a lot of chatter. There are many elderly people for whom these are the days when they meet people, when loneliness is replaced by social connection. It is a ‘home from home’ is what its regulars say - a place where the local community has taken SVP and its work to heart.”*

**SVP Rathmullan Social Centre**

**By making a big difference in so many little ways**

*“One of my most memorable visits was to a lady, on her birthday, who lived on her own in a remote area. We brought her a birthday card, flowers and chocolates. It was as if we had given her a million euro; the smiles, the tears and the thank you we received. She was so appreciative because it was her first birthday card ever and she was in her eighties. She had made our day too, and made us realise the difference we can make to people. It’s the thought that counts rather than the amount we give at times.”*

**Mary Sheridan – North West Regional Treasurer**

# Some important things for you to remember about leaving a gift to SVP in your Will

**Please remember** when you are drawing up your Will that your family and loved ones must always come first.

We always advise that you should seek professional advice. Your solicitor should be able to give you helpful information about the things you need to consider when writing, amending or updating your Will.

**Once you take good care of your loved ones in your Will** you may decide to leave the balance of your assets – or a percentage of what is left of them – to the Society of St Vincent de Paul. This type of bequest is called a **Residuary Bequest**. The words you need to add to your Will if you wish to leave a Residuary Bequest to SVP in your Will are as follows:

*“ I give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of (insert local address of SVP here) all (or a % of) the residue of my estate what so ever and whose so ever, and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer, or other officer, for the time being of the said Organisation shall be a full and sufficient discharge of the same.”*

Or, you may decide to leave a set amount of money, or a specific gift item, to SVP in your Will. This type of bequest is called a **Pecuniary Bequest**. The words you need to add to your Will if you wish to leave a Pecuniary Bequest to SVP in your Will are as follows:

*“ I give the sum of €----- or I bequeath (the item specified) to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of (insert local address of SVP here) and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer, or other proper officer, for the time being of the said Organisation shall be a full and sufficient discharge of the same.”*

# Our legacy charter highlights our promises to you

Leaving a legacy to SVP in your Will is an important decision. That's why we want you to be 100% assured that any gift that you leave in your Will to SVP will be put to the best possible use as quickly and as efficiently as possible.



## Legacy Charter

1. We recognise that your Will is personal and private to you and we promise you that we will respect your privacy at all times.
2. We fully understand that the wellbeing of your family and your loved ones must always come first.
3. Because SVP is committed to making a positive difference in the lives of those in need in Ireland, we encourage you to please remember SVP in your Will. However, we understand that you may have other charities that you may wish to include in your Will in preference to, or in addition to, SVP. We recognise that this is entirely your decision and we fully respect your right to decide as you wish.
4. If you specify in your Will how and where you would like your gift to be used by SVP, we will always work to honour your wishes. **That's a promise.**
5. We also promise you that we will use your gift as carefully and as cost-effectively as possible so that it brings the maximum amount of benefits to people in need in Ireland.

# Thank you for taking the time to consider leaving a gift to SVP in your Will.

*“A gift in your Will to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will help build a better future for people in need in Ireland and create lasting solutions to tackle poverty.”*

**Geoff Meagher –  
National President SVP**



If you need any more information about the work of SVP before you make your decision about leaving a legacy to SVP in your Will you are very welcome to contact us.



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