



Feeling Inspired

The Origin, Work & Inspiration of the
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul



A Young SVP Educational Resource



Foreword

As Chair of the National Young SVP Committee for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Ireland, I have the great privilege of introducing our 'Feeling Inspired' resource.

Our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam once said "I wish that all young people might unite in head and heart in some charitable work and that there be formed, throughout the whole country, a vast generous association for the relief of the people." Across Ireland this is indeed what members of Young SVP have been doing; growing in faith and social awareness together. We hope these lessons allow young people to develop a deeper understanding of the world around them and of the ways in which they can work together to eradicate social injustice and poverty. As members of the wider Vincentian family we must work to serve the poor not just in the moment, but in a manner which has a long lasting effect. This resource allows young people to expand in compassion, confidence and creativity, in order to make a genuine difference in both their local communities and wider society.

I hope that both students and teachers alike enjoy the lessons contained in this resource and are inspired to both take action and to reflect on the issues which are presented.



Grainne Lee,
Chairperson SVP National Youth Committee



Electric Ireland

"Electric Ireland is very proud to be partnering with the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul to support their National Youth Development Programme.

We, and the broader ESB Group, have a strong track record of working with communities and charities throughout Ireland and have had a very successful partnership with SVP for several years.

I would like to wish every success to participants in the programme and I am confident that it will inspire secondary school students to understand and help prevent poverty and social exclusion in their local communities."

Jim Dollard, Executive Director, Electric Ireland





**Thank you to Deirdre Curtis, Linda Kiely and Thomas McGauley
for their support in developing this resource.**



Welcome to 'Feeling Inspired'- A Young SVP Educational Resource

What it is?

This resource has been devised for use with students of secondary school age. It was specifically designed to support teachers of Junior Certificate Religious Education to deliver Section A of the syllabus, although other syllabus links can be drawn.

It may also be useful for other groups as an enrichment programme, as part of a Diocesan Award such as the Pope John Paul II Award or as a starting point for students undertaking a project. The lessons are intended to facilitate an exploration of the ethos, vision & mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and the key aspects of the work of SVP in Ireland.

Syllabus Links

Department of Education Religious Education Syllabus for Junior Certificate

Section A, Part 2- Communities at Work:

1. Looking at the work done by different types of local, community, national and international organisations
2. The inspiration for this work and its source
3. The variety of roles within communities

Section A, Part 3- Communities of Faith:

4. Exploration of the work done by religious organisations at a local and national level
 - The inspiration for this work and for commitment to service in the community of faith
 - The impact of this work on other individuals and on other communities
 - The variety of roles within communities of faith

Who is it for / when can it be used?

There are three lessons in this resource. Each lesson is designed to be delivered in a 40 minute class period. Teachers or leaders should use their own discretion regarding lessons and adapt exercises as necessary to suit the needs of their class/group. The methods used within each lesson allow the students to be at the centre of their own learning. The lessons encourage discussion, exploration and investigation. The lessons are interactive and geared towards group work, the teacher or leader is seen as a facilitator in this process.

Opportunities for students to reflect are incorporated throughout the resource. Each lesson includes a follow on activity which can be completed by the students outside of or during class/group time. At the back of this resource you will find an appendix which will guide the students in further exploration of SVP.

Please note that the topics and activities in this resource are designed to be adapted as appropriate. There may be students for whom these topics have particular resonance. It is left to the discretion of the teacher to adapt the activities as necessary for your group. Care should be taken to address topics in a constructive way, which promotes the dignity of all.

Feedback:

We hope you find this resource useful in supporting your students to learn more about SVP. Your feedback on this resource is appreciated. If you have any questions, comments or queries please email youth@svp.ie

Contents



Page 1 - Lesson 1: The History & Origins of SVP



Page 10 - Lesson 2: SVP in Ireland Today



Page 19 - Lesson 3: Feeling Inspired

Appendices:



Page 30: Appendix 1: What is service?

Page 31: Appendix 2: What Next?

Please Note:

Links to external sites are for information purposes only.







We do not take responsibility for the content of external sites. Please review all external content before use with your class/group.





Lesson One: The History & Origins of SVP - Teachers' Notes



 Aims of lesson	To provide an overview of the origins of The Society of St Vincent de Paul.
 Expected Learning Outcomes	Students will have a better understanding of where and why SVP originated.
   Methods Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Word storm• Audio visual• Discussion• Group work
 Time required	This lesson is designed to be delivered in a 40 minute class. Timings are estimates only. Please use your own discretion and adapt the exercises as necessary for your group.
<p>*Note: For videos & animations see -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://www.svp.ie/news-media/videos.aspx• The SVP Ireland youtube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnYD7C4vzgGdkfkx4jIWj-w unless directed elsewhere	

Lesson Guide

1. “What do you already know about SVP?” Ask your class/group

Resources: Whiteboard/ Flipchart & Markers

Timing: 5 mins

- Word storm – what do you think of when you hear ‘SVP’ (approx. 5 mins)
- Write ALL words the students come up with on the board / flip chart (leave up for remainder of session – refer to relevant words that come up again through the session)

2. Brief overview of SVP origins & history;

Resources: ‘Origins & Work of SVP’ animation, Origins of SVP Infographic, ‘Story of Action’ worksheet

Timing: 20 mins

- In class show the ‘Origins & Work of SVP’ animation
- While the video clip is playing ask the students to answer the questions on the accompanying worksheet
- The ‘Origin of SVP’ infographic is available as an additional support
- Discuss the students’ answers and observations

**As an alternative to the video animation use the ‘Story of Action’ worksheet and accompanying questions*

3. ‘Modern Story of Action’;

Resources: ‘Modern Story of Action’ Worksheet

Timing: 10 mins

- Either complete as whole class discussion / divide into smaller groups
- Allow the group to read the short piece called ‘Modern Story of Action’.
- Use the questions provided to promote discussion within your group; Encourage debate relating to reactive / proactive response to issues, discuss issues that seem relevant/current and the different ways they could be tackled.

4. Reflection;

Resources: Quotation graphic

Timing: 5 mins

Ask the students to consider the following quotation (use accompanying graphic to project the quotation on to the board or distribute to students)

“Yours must be a work of love, of kindness, you must give of your time, your talents, yourselves. 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 long term improvement” Blessed Frederic Ozanam

- What did Frederic Ozanam want to happen?/What was his vision?
- How did he think this could be achieved?
- What inspired him?
- Is this quote still relevant today?

5. Follow on activity-‘Inspiration from Society Founders’

Resources: ‘Inspiration from Society Founders’ worksheet

- Ask the students to consider the quotations on the ‘Inspiration from Society Founders’ worksheet.
- Students should reflect on these quotes using the questions provided.

Useful Links / Additional Resources	
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul; Website	www.svp.ie
Origins of SVP ; webpage	http://www.svp.ie/about-us/history.aspx
“The Frederic Ozanam Story”	Booklet available on request from SVP
“Blessed Frederic Ozanam” YouTube Clip	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vm5Luds6H8

In the beginning...

The Society was founded by Blessed Frederic Ozanam and his friends in Paris in 1833; originally it was called 'Conference of Charity.' Frederic Ozanam and his college friends often discussed the needs within society and were challenged to act upon their discussions. It was from this that they set up their group (Conference) in order to tackle inequalities in their own communities. Overall they *"wanted a Christianity that would influence everyday life; one that would help create a peaceful and just society for all."*



St Vincent de Paul was adopted as patron of the Conference in 1834, the group was renamed Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and has been called this ever since. St Vincent de Paul was a French Catholic Priest and dedicated his life to helping those in need. Therefore, he was chosen because of the example he set. He was the type of person that Frederic and his friends aspired to be.

Action...

Some of the actions undertaken by Society of St Vincent de Paul at this time (1800's) included;

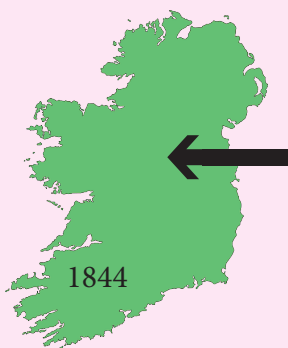
Charity

Distribution of food and fuel to those impoverished in Paris. They worked closely with Sr Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity, who lived among those suffering with poverty and was able to point out those who were in the greatest need of assistance.



Political Action

They recognised the need to take an active part in political debate; social reform was needed and would not be achieved through revolutions and violence but rather by trying to influence the political and social systems. Their mission was to achieve social justice for all.



SVP came to Ireland in 1844 when the first Conference was set up here. 'Conference' is the name given to a group / unit within SVP.

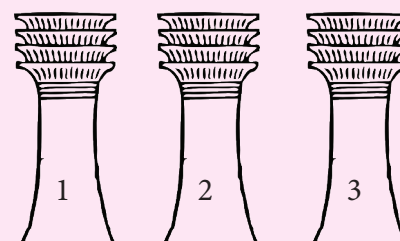


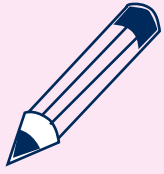
Today, there are approximately 1300 Conferences and over 10,000 volunteers across the country.

Ethos and Mission...

SVP are involved in a diverse range of activities which are characterised by 'The Three Pillars' which are as relevant today as they were 200 years ago:

1. Support & Friendship
2. Promoting Self-Sufficiency
3. Working for Social Justice





Using the 'Origins of SVP' animation and handout- fill in the blanks!

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul was founded by F_____ O_____ in P_____ in_____.

Frederic and his friends wanted society to be p_____ and j_____ for everyone.

Saint Vincent de Paul is the p_____ S_____ of the Society.

Frederic and his friends worked closely with Sister R_____ R_____.

They distributed f_____ and f_____ to people in Paris.

A group or unit in SVP is called a C_____. SVP first came to Ireland in _____. There are now over _____ volunteers in Ireland.

The SVP Mission Statement has _____ pillars.

They are:

-S_____ & _____

-Promoting _____

-Working for S_____ J_____



Frederic Ozanam said "I would like to embrace the whole world in a network of love".

What do you think he meant?

The Story of Action

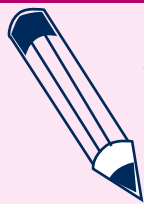
Young People founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Twenty year old student and thinker, Frederic Ozanam, and a few friends **founded** the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) in Paris on April 23, 1833 at a time of great crisis in France. This group of people decided to put their Christian **faith** into action by reaching out to those society overlooked. They wanted everyone's dignity to be respected and for everyone to be cared for. Their **inspiration** came from the message of the Gospels. They wanted to follow the example of Jesus and care for those in need.

Their example shows how much of a difference young people can make in the world. Well aware of the very difficult political, social and economic problems of their times these young men, all in their early 20s, **committed** themselves to **service** to the most deprived. By their own efforts and raising what finance they could, they worked to address suffering and poverty. Frederic Ozanam and his friends believed that Christian help and friendship were the best means of achieving social justice.

As SVP developed the members chose St Vincent de Paul (who lived from 1581 – 1660 in France) to be their Patron. They chose St Vincent because Vincent dedicated himself to God through caring for all those who were suffering from the effects of poverty and hardship. He believed that to serve the poorest is to serve Jesus who said: "What you do to the weakest of my brothers and sisters, you do to me."

The members of SVP continue to live the **vision** of Blessed Frederic Ozanam and to follow the **inspiration** of St. Vincent de Paul. Their work is practical and makes a real difference today as it has done for generations. Young people continue to volunteer their time, energy and creativity to find new ways to put **faith** in God into action for people in need, and so to make a real and lasting difference in our society today.



Answer the following questions:

- Why did these young people decide / feel it was up to them to take action?
- What was the issue(s) they were trying to address in their actions?
- What did their action involve?
- What do you think it would have felt like to be 'overlooked' by society?
- What affect would the actions of Frederic and his friends have had on the people that they helped?
- Which do you think is more important; dealing with an issue or dealing with the cause of the issue?
- Can you think of some issues / problems that are relevant to your own community nowadays? Do you think these issues are being addressed? By who? How? What else could be done?

Modern Story of Action

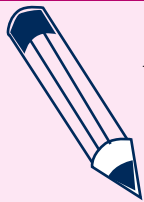
The Playground

In one corner of the park lay a forgotten playground. The local community raised funds through raffles and supermarket bag-packing to clear the weeds and repaint the rusting equipment. Everyone young and old worked together to make the playground safe and fun to use. The playground filled once more with happy children.



One Monday morning on her way to school Anna noticed that there was one bench which had a lot of beer cans scattered around it, despite the bin nearby. She picked up the cans and put them in the bin. The following Monday there were even more cans around the bench. Anna spoke with her friends and they decided to collect the cans and bring them to the recycling centre. Her parents volunteered to bring them to the centre and they had a tour of the centre, learning all about what happens to recyclable products.

As the weeks passed, the cans continued to be thrown around that corner of the playground. More and more children began to collect them and a rota was organised to ensure that there was a litter check every day. Special bags were given by the local council for the collections. Notices were hung asking people to use the bins and not litter. Anna began to wonder where the cans came from...



Answer the following questions:

- What is important about the playground in the story?
- What did the local community do and why?
- How can the actions of the local community be related to the work of SVP?
- What do you think Anna should do now?
- Who else has responsibility for the playground?
- Which do you think is more important; dealing with the issue or dealing with the cause of the issue?
- Can you think of some issues / problems that are relevant to your own community nowadays? Do you think these issues are being addressed? By who? How? What else could be done?

Reflection

“Yours must be a work of love, of kindness, you must give of your time, your talents, yourselves. 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 long term improvement”

-Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Reflect on the following questions:



- What did Frederic Ozanam want to happen?
- What was his vision?
- How did he think this could be achieved?
- What inspired him?
- Is this quote still relevant today?

Inspiration from Society Founders

*“If we are really called to carry the love of God far
and wide,
if we are to inflame the nations with this fire,
if we have a vocation of setting the whole world on
fire,
if it is so, then how much I must myself burn with
the fire”*

Saint Vincent de Paul

Reflection Questions

- Who or what are you inspired by?
- What issues are you really passionate about?
- What changes would you like to see happen in society?

*“Christianity is not about ideas
but about deeds inspired by
love”*

Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Reflection Questions

- What do you think Frederic Ozanam meant when he said this?
- Can you think of an example of someone who has carried out ‘deeds inspired by love’?
- Is there an action you would like to take to make a difference in the world?

*“Be kind and love, for love is your first
gift to the poor”*

Blessed Rosalie Rendu

Reflection Questions





- Is love and compassion as important as practical assistance?
- How can we show respect for those who are in need of assistance?
- What else might motivate/inspire people to help others?

Adapted from ‘Peace Out’ developed by St Vincent de Paul Society (Australia)



Lesson Two: SVP in Ireland Today - Teachers' Notes



 <p>Aims of lesson</p>	<p>To provide an overview of the mission & purpose of SVP and types of work the Society is currently involved in.</p>
 <p>Expected Learning Outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have a better understanding of how the work of SVP remains relevant in today's society. • Students will be familiar with the roles and activities within the Society.
 <p>Methods Used</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word storm • Discussion • Group work • Audio visual • Creative arts
 <p>Time required</p>	<p>This lesson is designed to be delivered in a 40 minute class. Timings are estimates only. Please use your own discretion and adapt the exercises as necessary for your group.</p>
<p>*Note: For videos & animations see -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.svp.ie/news-media/videos.aspx • The SVP Ireland youtube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnYD7C4vzgGdkfkx4jIWj-w unless directed elsewhere 	

Lesson Guide

1.1 Current work of SVP in Ireland

Resources: Whiteboard/Flipchart & Markers, 'Current Work of SVP in Ireland' handout, 'Work of the Society of St Vincent de Paul' video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pzqvXX9ZM0>

Timing: 10 mins

- Ask the students to list all the work/activities they think SVP is currently involved in.
- Record their answers on the board/flipchart.
- Refer to the 'List of SVP Activities' handout.

Questions:

1. Were there any activities the students did not name?
2. Are there any activities not listed that they would like to add in?
3. Based on the list of activities, what sort of roles/responsibilities do you think people have within SVP?

1.2 'Work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul'

- Show the video clip 'The Work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul'.

For more information see <https://www.svp.ie/whatwedo>

Ask the students to discuss the following questions from the 'Current Work of SVP in Ireland' handout:

1. What services are the volunteers providing?
2. What roles are the volunteers undertaking? What jobs are they doing?
3. Is the commitment of the volunteers important? Why?
4. How do the volunteers ensure dignity for the people they help?

2. SVP Mission Statement

Resources: 'Three Pillars' of SVP Graphic, 'SVP Mission Statement' handout

Timing: 10 mins

2.1

- Read through the 'SVP Mission Statement'.
- Ask the students to explain: Support & Friendship, Promoting Self-Sufficiency & Working for Social Justice in their own words.

2.2

- Using the 'List of SVP Activities' and the 'Three Pillars' graphic, ask the students to match the activities to the corresponding pillar (this can be individual, paired or group work).
- Students can record their matches by writing the activity names around the pillar.
- Some activities may apply to more than one pillar.
- Ask the students to share their conclusions with the class.

3. Impact of the work of SVP

Resources: ‘Impact of the Work’ handout, ‘Your Help Can Last a Lifetime Video’ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hc13HDA-z1g>

Timing: 10 mins

3.1

- Divide class into small groups (3/4 per group).
- Show the ‘Your help can last a lifetime’ video

Ask the students the following questions found on the ‘Impact of the Work of SVP’ handout:

1. What did Katie need support with?
2. How did SVP support Katie?
3. What impact did the support of SVP have?

3.2

Read the two case studies about families supported by SVP ‘We might just make it’ and ‘Giving Children a better chance in Life’. Then ask students to consider the following questions. Alternatively, watch “Building an Equal Nation” video clip at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-2tS6g7QMk> and then discuss the questions.

Ask the students to consider the following questions in relation to the case studies:

- What are the issues for this person / family?
- What is the immediate effect on the person / family?
- If the situation were to continue what might happen over the longer term?
- What does this person / family need most of all right now?
- What do they need in the longer term?
- Whose responsibility is it to make sure that the social justice issue(s) identified is/are addressed?
- Who can help make sure that these issues are addressed?
- What impact has SVP had on the person/family?
- Can you imagine what it would be like to be this person / a part of this family?

4. Review-Past to Present

Timing: 5 mins

Ask students to think back to Lesson 1 and what they learned about the origins of SVP

Questions:

1. Are there similarities between the work carried out by the founders of SVP and the members of SVP today?
2. Do they share similar goals?
3. Are they inspired by the same things?

5. Reflection

Resources: Quotation graphic

Timing: 10 mins

Ask the students to consider the following quotation (use accompanying graphic to project the quotation on to the board or distribute to students)

“Charity must never look backwards but always to the front, because the number of good deeds already accomplished is very small, while present and future hardships remain infinite”- Blessed Frederic Ozanam

- What do you think Frederic Ozanam meant when he said this?
- Is the work of SVP as relevant today as it was when it was founded?
- Have the problems in society changed over the past 200 years?

6. Follow on activity- Create a poster


Resources: Arts & Crafts supplies

- Ask students to create a poster informing people about the mission & work of SVP.

We would love to see your art work! Send your posters or copies/ photograph to:
Your Regional Youth Development Officer <https://www.svp.ie/What-We-Do/Young-SVP/Youth-Development.aspx>

Email us at youth@svp.ie

 Find us on Facebook ‘Young SVP’

 Tweet us @young_svp

Useful Links / Additional Resources	
SVP Mission Statement	https://www.svp.ie/missionstatement
SVP “What We Do” webpage	https://www.svp.ie/whatwedo
Definition Social justice: “justice in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society”	https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/social_justice
Definition of Self Sufficiency “able to take care of oneself without outside help”	http://www.wordcentral.com/cgi-bin/student?book=Student&va=self-sufficient

‘Work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul’

- What services are the volunteers providing?
- What roles are the volunteers undertaking?/What jobs are they doing?
- Is the commitment of the volunteers important? Why?
- How do the volunteers ensure the dignity of the people they help?

SVP Activities...

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is a society led by volunteers. Currently across Ireland there are over 10,000 members who give their time voluntarily to the work of SVP. There are also approximately 600 staff members who provide support in the delivery of this work.

The range of activities SVP are currently involved in include*:



Visits to people (home hospital, prison etc.)



Education Programmes and Supports



Accommodation - Hostels and Housing



Social Justice Campaigns



Family Resource Centres



School Conferences and Groups



Vincent's Shops



Social Action Projects



Holiday Centres



Twinning



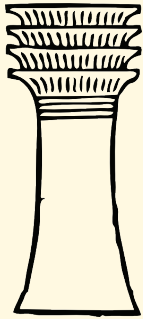
Preschool and Creches



Lobbying Government

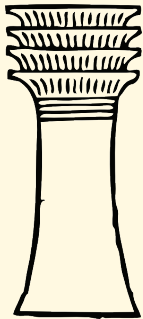
*Please note this is not an exhaustive list & does not include all the work of SVP

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) is a Christian charity, led by volunteers, working with people in need. Inspired by our principal founder, Frederic Ozanam, and our patron, St Vincent de Paul, we seek to respond to the call every Christian receives to bring the love of Christ to those in need: "I was hungry and you gave me food" (Matthew 25). We are involved in a diverse range of activities characterised by:



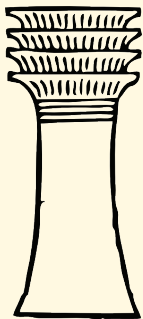
Support and friendship

Through person-to-person contact we are committed to respecting the dignity of those we assist and fostering self-respect. We assure confidentiality at all times and endeavour to establish relationships based on trust and friendship.



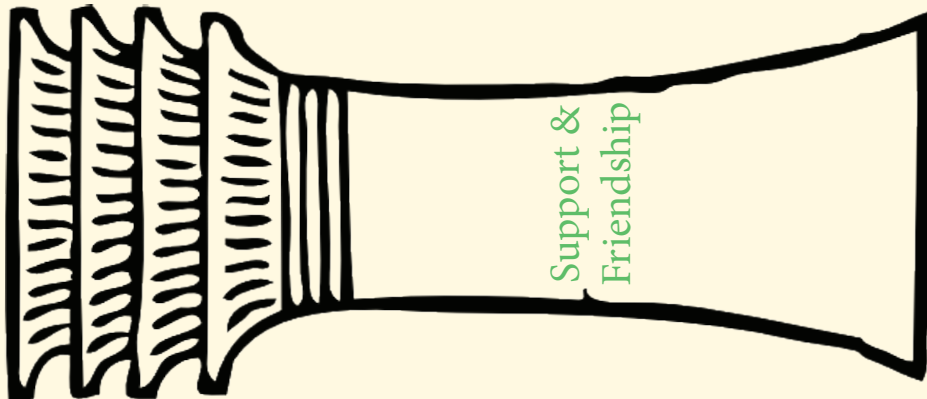
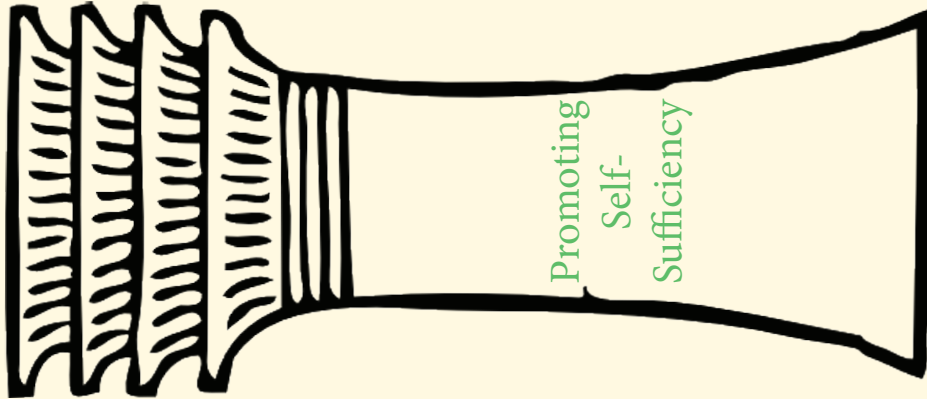
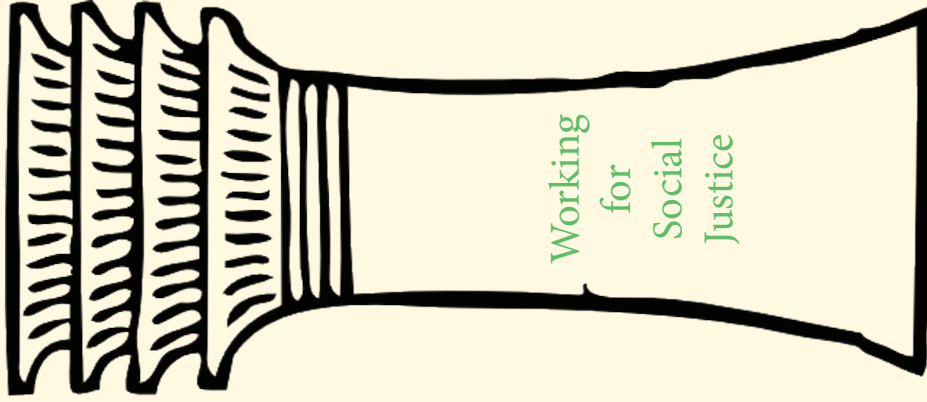
Promoting self-sufficiency

It is not enough to provide short term material support. Those we assist are also helped to achieve self-sufficiency in the longer term and the sense of self-worth this provides. When problems are beyond our competence, we build bridges of support with others who can provide more specialised support.



Working for social justice

We are committed to identifying the root causes of poverty and social exclusion in Ireland and, in solidarity with those in need, to advocate and work for the changes required to create a more just and caring society.



Your Help Can Last a life Time

- What did Katie need support with?
- How did SVP support Katie?
- What impact did the support of SVP have?



YES

Case Studies

We might just make it

SVP is helping a family of two adults and three children, 17, 12 & 11 years. Last year the father lost his job, and as a result the family also lost their family Income Supplement payment. The father had to wait almost 4 weeks for the first social welfare payment. They have a mortgage but have negotiated a break with the bank, reducing their repayments from €1500 per month to €600.

At home the mother is moving tinned food from the cupboard to the fridge to make it look full in front of the children. The mother says *“I used to think nobody cared, the SVP members listened and gave us hope. With their assistance in giving us a hand up, we might just make it.”*

Giving children a better chance in life

Our volunteers are working with a family of five - Dad and four children. Dad tried to keep his labourer's job but with the recession and cost of childcare he eventually went on social welfare. When Dad was working he received family Income Supplement but the family still struggled. Now without that payment, there isn't enough income for the basics, never mind when anything goes wrong.

We provide help with the basics; school bus fares and other educational costs. We have also supported the family to go on holidays. Three of the four children take part in an SVP student tuition scheme, where they get one to one educational support. There has been a big difference with the children - they are more confident and outgoing and the hope is that it will give them a better chance in life.

Consider the following questions:

- What are the issues for this person / family?
- What is the immediate effect on the person / family?
- If the situation were to continue what might happen over the longer term?
- What does this person / family need most of all right now?
- What do they need in the longer term?
- Whose responsibility is it to make sure that the social justice issue(s) identified is/are addressed?
- Who can help make sure that these issues are addressed?
- What impact has SVP had on the person/family?
- Can you imagine what it would be like to be this person / a part of this family?



Reflection

“Charity must never look backwards but always to the front, because the number of good deeds already accomplished is very small, while present and future hardships remain infinite”

-Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Reflect on the following questions:







- What do you think Frederic Ozanam meant when he said this?
- Is the work of SVP as relevant today as when it was founded?
- Have the problems in society changed over the last 200 years?



Lesson Three: Feeling Inspired - Teachers' Notes



 <p>Aims of lesson</p>	<p>To provide insight into the inspiration for the work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.</p>
 <p>Expected Learning Outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have explored the inspiration behind the work of SVP. • Students will have a better understanding of the link between the message of the Gospels and the work of SVP.
 <p>Methods Used</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion • Group work • Activities • Reflection
 <p>Time required</p>	<p>This lesson is designed to be delivered in a 40 minute class. Timings are estimates only. Please use your own discretion and adapt the exercises as necessary for your group.</p>
<p>*Note: For videos & animations see -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.svp.ie/news-media/videos.aspx • The SVP Ireland youtube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnYD7C4vzgGdkfkx4jIWj-w unless directed elsewhere 	

Lesson Guide

1. Feeling Inspired

Timing: 5 mins

- Can you think of a time when you were inspired by a person/ an event/ something else?

Questions:

1. Did this inspiration help you to take an action or make a change?
2. Think back to Lesson 1- What inspired Frederic Ozanam to found SVP?

2. 'SVP is a Society of Volunteers'

Resources: 'SVP is a Society of Volunteers' handout & animation, Summary of Catholic Social Teaching

Timing: 10 mins

- Using the 'SVP is a Society of Volunteers' animation and handout and referring back to their learning from Lesson 2, ask the students to discuss the following (in groups or pairs):

Questions:

1. What inspires the members of SVP?
2. What are they committed to?
3. What is SVP's vision of how people should be treated?

- Ask the students to share their answers

{Use the handout on Catholic Social Teaching to support this discussion. What links can the students see between Catholic Social Teaching and what they already know about the work of SVP}

3. Impact of the work of SVP

Resources: The Good Samaritan

Timing: 20 mins

3.1

- In groups ask the student to read through The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and discuss the accompanying questions.

3.2

Ask the students to consider the following questions in their groups:

1. Do you agree that the story of the Good Samaritan is inspiring?
2. Can you see any similarities between the Good Samaritan and Frederic Ozanam?
3. Can you see any similarities between the story of the Good Samaritan and the work of SVP today?

3.3

Ask the students to read the following quote and discuss the accompanying questions:

“Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveller who has been attacked. It is justice’s role to prevent the attack”- Blessed Frederic Ozanam

1. What do you think Frederic Ozanam meant when he said this?
2. How would you describe the difference between charity and justice?
3. Is one more important than the other?
4. Think about the ‘SVP Activities List’ from Lesson 2- is this work related to charity, justice or both?

{Use the ‘Reflection on the story of the Good Samaritan’ as a reference}

{Adapted from ‘Peace Out’ developed by the St Vincent de Paul Society, Australia}

4. Reflection

Resources: Reflection on 'The Golden Rule'

Timing: 5 mins

- Ask the students to consider the quotations from the Major World Religions
- 1. Does it surprise you that The Golden Rule is found in different religions?
- 2. Why do you think this is the case?
- 3. How are SVP volunteers following the Golden Rule?
- 4. How could you follow the Golden Rule in your own life?

5. Follow on Activity- The Starfish Story

Resources: The Starfish Story worksheet

- Ask the students to read the Starfish story and answer the accompanying questions.
- 1. Does it sometimes feel like issues are too big for us to make a difference?
- 2. What do you think the message of this story is?
- 3. Can you think of any examples of small actions that can make a big difference to people?
- 4. "We can't do everything but we can all do something" - Do you agree with this statement? Why/ why not?

Useful Links / Additional Resources	
Origins of SVP webpage	http://www.svp.ie/about-us/history.aspx
Cafod Video clip on Catholic Social Teaching	http://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-schools/Films
Caritas CST resources	http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/catholic-social-teaching

SVP is a Society of Volunteers

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is an international voluntary Christian organisation. Membership of the Society is open to anyone who can adopt our ethos. We draw our inspiration and energy from the Gospels and Catholic Social Teaching and attempt to live the core values (Love of God and Love of our neighbour) through an action oriented programme, working directly with people in need.

Members of the Society come from all walks of life, giving as Frederic Ozanam challenged, of their time, their talents and themselves to serve people in need and to work for social justice. Many are responding to the Vincentian spirituality of Christian love, compassion and justice, characterised by friendship based on mutual respect and caring. Others are drawn to social action and the creation of a more just and caring society.

All are united by a vision of social justice which Frederic Ozanam described as “a fixed star which human societies try to follow from their uncertain orbits. It can be seen from different points of view, but justice itself remains unchanged”.



Answer the following questions:

- What inspires the members of SVP?
- What are they committed to?
- What is SVP's vision of what society should be like?



What is Catholic Social Teaching?

1. **The Dignity of the Human Person**-Human beings are created in the image and likeness of God and, therefore, have inherent dignity. No human being should have their dignity or freedom compromised.
2. **The Common Good** - Every person should have sufficient access to the goods and resources of society. The rights of individuals must be balanced with the wider common good of all. The rights and needs of others must always be respected.
3. **Solidarity** - Everyone belongs to one human family. Everyone should promote the rights of others.
4. **Subsidiarity** - Individuals and groups have the right to make their own decisions. Decisions should be made by the people closest to and most affected by the issues and concerns.
5. **The Purpose of the Social Order**- The social order must uphold the dignity of the human person.
6. **The Purpose of Government** - Governments should work to promote and ensure social justice and equality.
7. **Participation** - Individuals and groups must be enabled to participate in society.
8. **The Universal Purpose of Goods** - The world's goods are meant for all. Although the Church upholds the right to private property this is secondary to the right to the common use and overall common good.
9. **The Option for the Poor** - Caring for those who are vulnerable and in need is everyone's responsibility. Their rights should be given special attention.
10. **Care for Creation (Stewardship)** - We must all care for and share the resources of the earth.

What links can you see between Catholic Social Teaching and the work of SVP?

Adapted from 'Peace Out' developed by the St Vincent de Paul Society, Australia and www.caritas.org.au

The Good Samaritan

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10: 25-37

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, *“Teacher what must I do to inherit eternal life?”* Jesus said to him, *“What is written in the law? How do you read it?”* He said in reply, *“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.”* He replied to him, *“You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.”* But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, *“And who is my neighbour?”*

Jesus replied, *“A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight.*

“He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, ‘Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.’ Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbour to the robbers’ victim?” He answered, *“The one who treated him with mercy.”* Jesus said to him, *“Go and do likewise”.*

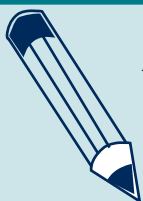
Reflection on The Good Samaritan

The story of the Good Samaritan is one of the many inspiring stories in the Gospel. If you happen to see the tomb of Frederic Ozanam you will find a painting of the story of the Good Samaritan around the background of the tomb. If you have ever heard the story of the Good Samaritan you will know that the Samaritan helped a man who had been attacked by robbers and left for dead. Unlike the priest and the Levite, the Samaritan helps the man.

Frederic Ozanam and St Vincent de Paul were both like the Good Samaritan. They did not ignore the disadvantage they saw, as the priest and the Levite did. Instead they acted as Jesus would have and helped the person in need. Frederic Ozanam and the Society’s members, volunteers and staff work together to address needs within local communities.

The story of the Good Samaritan is an inspiring story of charity and different paths individuals can decide to take when confronted with disadvantage and need. For all Vincentians this story should guide our daily actions and decisions and not ignore a need when we see it.

*“Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveller who has been attacked.
It is justice’s role to prevent the attack”*
Blessed Frederic Ozanam



Answer the following questions:

- Consider the quote above, what do you think Frederic Ozanam meant when he said this?
- How would you describe the difference between Charity and Justice?
- Is one more important than the other?
- Think about the work of SVP (from Lesson 2) - is this work related to charity, justice or both?

Adapted from ‘Peace Out’ developed by the St Vincent de Paul Society, Australia

Reflection

Frederic Ozanam described justice as “a *fixed star which human societies try to follow from their uncertain orbits. It can be seen from different points of view, but justice itself remains unchanged*”.

The Golden Rule is the principal of treating others as you would like to be treated. It makes the case that each individual has the right to just treatment and a responsibility to ensure justice for others. A version of the rule can be found in each of the major world religions.

Christianity- “*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets*”. Matthew 7:12

Buddhism- “*Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful*.” Udana-Varga 5:18

Hinduism- “*This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you*.” Mahabharata 5:1517

Islam- “*None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself*.” Number 13 of Imam “Al-Nawawi’s Forty Hadiths.”

Judaism- “*What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow man. This is the law: all the rest is commentary*.” Talmud, Shabbat 31a.

Reflect on the following questions:



- Does it surprise you that the Golden Rule is found in different religions?
- Why do you think this is the case?
- How are SVP volunteers following the Golden Rule?
- How can you follow the Golden Rule in your own life?

Adapted from kidworldcitizen.org

The Starfish Story

Once upon a time, there was a wise man that used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.

One day, as he was walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, and so, he walked faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man and that what he was doing was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects and throwing them into the ocean.

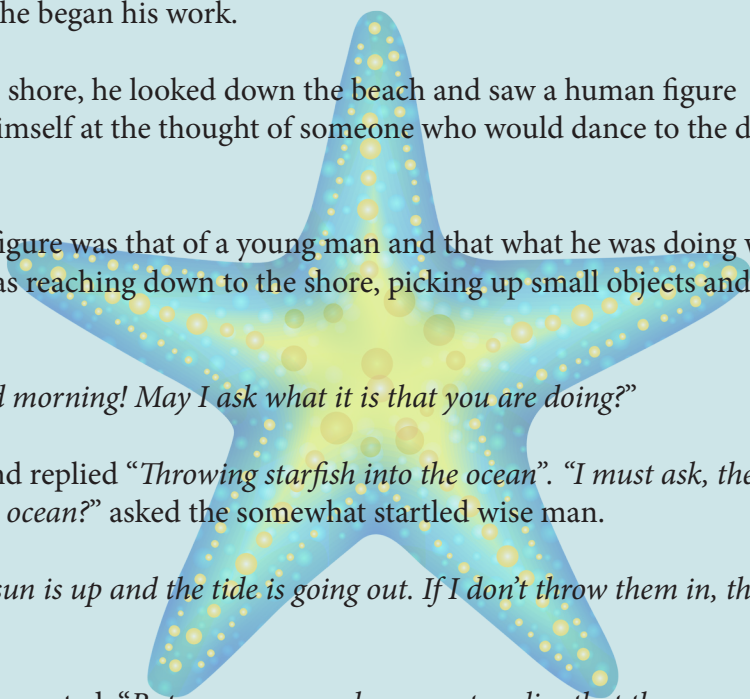
He came closer and called out, *“Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?”*

The young man paused, looked up and replied *“Throwing starfish into the ocean”*. *“I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?”* asked the somewhat startled wise man.

To this the young man replied, *“The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don’t throw them in, they’ll die”*.

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, *“But, young man, do you not realise that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can’t possibly make a difference!”*

At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he said, *“It made a difference for that one.”*



Reflect on the following questions:



- Does it sometimes feel like issues are too big for us to make a difference?
- What do you think the message of this story is?
- Can you think of any examples of small actions that can make a big difference to people?
- “We can’t do everything but we can all do something” - Do you agree with this statement? Why/why not?

Adapted from ‘Peace Out’ developed by the St Vincent de Paul Society, Australia



Appendix 1



What is Service? - Reflection

What is service...

1. An act of a helpful activity
2. The performance of duties as a servant
3. The serving of God by obedience, piety, etc.

Romans 12

Just as each of us has various parts in one body, and the parts do not all have the same function: in the same way, all of us, though there are so many of us, make up one body in Christ, and as different parts we are all joined to one another.

Then since the gifts that we have differ according to the grace that was given to each of us: if it is the gift of prophecy, we should prophesy as much as our faith tells us: if it is a gift of practical service, let us devote ourselves to serving; if it is teaching, to teaching; if it is encouraging, to encouraging. When you give, you should give generously from the heart: if you are put in charge, you must be conscientious; if you do works of mercy, let it be because you enjoy doing them.

*“It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing.
It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving”*
Mother Teresa

Reflect on the following questions:



- How do you define service?
- Who are the people who serve you in your life?
- Can you remember a time when you were deeply affected by an act of service?
- What are your gifts?
- How might you use those gifts in the service of others?

Adapted from ‘Peace Out’ developed by the St Vincent de Paul Society, Australia



Appendix 2



What Next?

We hope you have enjoyed learning about the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. If you would like more information on SVP please see our website here: <http://www.svp.ie/what-we-do/young-svp/svp-inschools/doing-a-school-project.aspx>

You can also contact your Regional Youth Development Officer (YDO).

Your YDO can:

- Provide you with more information & resources on SVP
- Support you in carrying out a class project
- Arrange a guest speaker for your class
- Visit your school to provide you with more information on Young SVP
- Help you to set up a Young SVP Conference or group in your school
- Support you to plan and carry out activities with/for SVP

You will find your YDO's contact details here: <http://www.svp.ie/What-We-Do/Children-Young-People/Youth-Development.aspx>

Young SVP

The Young SVP Youth Development Programme offers a wide range of opportunities to engage in positive social action in your local area. Joining the Young SVP Programme provides a great opportunity for personal and social development while gaining an understanding of the ethos, mission and aims of SVP. The programme will enable you to develop projects that will improve the lives of others while you gain a better understanding of social justice.

PLEASE NOTE

It is important that you keep us informed of any activity your class / group may be doing. Please register with your Regional YDO prior to undertaking any activities. All activities require appropriate supervision & consent.

Once you have set up your group, there are four main types of projects that we can help you with:

- **Befriending Projects** - In befriending another person the visitor gives of their time, their talents & themselves. Befriending projects often involve working with organisations that care for the elderly or other community groups.
- **Education Projects** - This can include projects such as Reading and Homework Clubs.
- **Direct Aid** - Fundraising is one way you can help SVP. It is important that you understand what the fundraising is for. We can help you with that! You should also carry out your own research. You can also help with the collecting, packing & distributing of goods.
- **Social Justice Research and Action** - This involves researching & creating awareness on a social issue, with the support of SVP. You will be able to follow your own interests & to decide how your group can take action to change things for the better.



You can also find us on Facebook...



You can follow us on Twitter...

Young SVP Programme Resources

- Young SVP Registration Form
- Guidelines on how to set up a Young SVP
- Group/Project/Conference Guidelines
- Education Resource Pack
- Young SVP Reflections
- Young SVP Action Planning Calendar
- Age Appropriate Activity List for Young Volunteers
- Young SVP 'Programme for Schools' Leaflet
- SVP Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

Available from the Youth Development Team @ National/Regional Offices.
Please email youth@svp.ie



Society of St Vincent de Paul

Society of St Vincent de Paul
National Office
91/92 Sean MacDermott Street
Dublin 1

Copyright © SVP 2017

First published 2017