

THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL LINLITHGOW CONFERENCE



As you will know from previous newsletters our society was Founded in Paris in 1833 by Blessed Fredrick Ozanam and his companions, it is international, christian and voluntary dedicated to seeking out those in need of material and spiritual support (irrespective of ideology, faith, ethnicity, age or gender) and providing them practical help. Under the Patronage of Saint Vincent and inspired by his charism our parish team operates this remit locally within Linlithgow whilst contributing nationally and internationally to the society's efforts.

Your continued donations make a real difference to people who have fallen on hard times locally and internationally

On behalf of all those who have benefited - thank you for your continued generosity!

If you might be interested in the opportunity to put Christianity into action as a member of SSVP, or would just like to find out more about the work we do, speak to Fr Paul or contact one of the members listed below.

Our Linlithgow Conference receives money from the collection box in the church after mass or after events eg the Fish Tea and other special events organised to raise funds; and, legacies. In tax year 2017/18 our income amounted to **£6693.2**

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

During tax year 2017/18 our expenditure was £5716.23. Our expenditure comprises of support payment to local, national and international SSVP initiatives.

Globally, the Society has now helped 30 million people, has 800,000 members and operates in 153 countries. The Plus Project aims to bring new regions into the society. The latest addition was Liberia (Africa).

In 2017/2018 ,nationally we had **1,833 members across 271 conferences , 43 mini Vinny Groups and 25 Youth SSVP groups**, operating activities such as the Ozanam Centre at Bridgegate in Glasgow and the Ozanam Clubs in Lanarkshire. **45,228 home and 10,023 hospital visits were completed. 5,990 families were financially assisted 2,697 families were assisted with furniture ,white goods and textiles.** In particular, examples of where your St Michael's donations have directly assisted are:

- The Sisters of Charity =>food and sleeping bag provision to Edinburgh's homeless
- The Diocesan furniture re - use project to cover storage and vehicular upkeep
- The SSVP international development fund
- St Michael's Hospice and Linlithgow Day care centre
- Upkeep of the Society's caravans (**204 holidays provided nationally**)
- Material help to disadvantaged and needy children in West Lothian's Schools
- Locally, we held a mass to celebrate Eddie Boyle's retirement after 50 years of service to SSVP. We continue to visit and provide practical support to older, disabled, addicted and disadvantaged people in their own homes, in housing with care, in nursing homes and in hospitals, carrying out a total **256 visits**. Practical support includes help with transport , shopping and accessing local services. We have provided caravan holidays to **2 local families** and we will continue local support at Christmas time delivering blessings and additional assistance as required. **If you know of anyone who might benefit from our assistance then please let us know.**
- Local members have volunteered with the Sisters of Charity in Edinburgh
- The "Generation to Generation" project (seen on TV)
- Visited Tajikistan to help this fledgling independent country transition from child care based on baby homes and NGO's towards State run Social Services. At our recent fish tea money raised helped equip a respite care centre for vulnerable mothers and babies in Tajikistan. Tajik officials and workers were recent guests of Falkirk council ,visiting Linlithgow. **They pass on sincere thanks "TAWAKYPP"**

If you know of anyone who might benefit from our assistance or you want to know more about the SSVP then please speak to one of our members below or phone 07596 225937

Haydn Carr-Pollock , Jerry O'Dwyer , Kathleen Love , Douglas Robertson , Danny Boyle , Theresa McHardie and Paudric Osbourne

