

The background of the entire page is a stained glass window. The central figure is St. Vincent de Paul, an elderly man with a white beard and a brown cap, wearing a blue robe. He is holding two young children: a girl in a red dress on his right and a boy in a white shirt on his left. To the left of St. Vincent is a nun in a white habit. At the bottom right, another child is visible. The stained glass is set in a dark frame with leaded glass panes.

Your Legacy of Faith with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Frédéric & Amélie Ozanam
Legacy Society

Frédéric & Amélie Ozanam



Amélie Soulacroix was born into a talented, middle-class family in Marseille, France in 1820. Her father was a professor of mathematics, while her mother raised Amélie to serve as her right hand in the myriad responsibilities of a wife and mother at the time. The close-knit Catholic family was anchored by her parents' relationship, a true-love match that was rare for the time and grounded in affection for one another and their children.

After rejecting the marriage proposals of two other suitors, Amélie married Frédéric Ozanam on June 23, 1841, when she was just 20 years old. Frédéric was a well-respected professor who had already joined with young colleagues to found the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 1833.

Wrote Amélie, "I was delighted to share in the destiny of someone so esteemed and respected, and who seemed to be so deserving of undivided love. I must say from that moment I felt God was bestowing a great blessing on me, far more than I deserved."

The devout, devoted young couple's home was known for being a warm and welcoming household filled with friendship and love. But they longed for a family, and after two heartbreaking miscarriages, Amélie finally gave birth to a daughter, Marie, in 1845.

Frédéric's reputation as an intellectual, philosopher, and one of the Society's founders grew, even as his health began to fail. His helpmate and partner, Amélie, was by his side through it all. The couple were married just 12 years before he died of kidney disease at the age of only 40. Amélie was 33 at the time, but rather than remarry, she devoted the next 40 years of her life to securing her husband's legacy, collecting and publishing his numerous writings.

Without Frédéric and his friends, we would not have the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. And without Amélie, we might know very little about Frédéric's life and legacy. We have named our legacy giving society in honor of their partnership, and their commitment to their family, their faith, and their service, love, and devotion of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

*“It is God indeed,
who in His grace,
brought us together,
otherwise we should not
have been so happy.”*

– Amélie Ozanam

A Society of Friends

“It is for [friendship] that in Paris we wished to found our little Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and it is also for this reason perhaps that heaven has seen fit to bless it.” – Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

Frédéric saw his first Conference as a society of friends. He believed that when people of faith united in the service of the poor, they created a perfect union.

Amélie Ozanam did not serve in a Conference, but she saw the impact of her husband's work and ensured that his writings were preserved as a legacy for future generations. Together, her efforts and his words have inspired countless Vincentians across the world.

The Frédéric and Amélie Ozanam Legacy Society is a community of special benefactors, united in faith and service, with a special mission of delivering a thriving Society to the next generation.

Vincentians don't serve alone. Our work connects our family, friends, neighbors, and parishioners. We share the joy of the Gospel through the sweat of our brow and the strength of our arm.

Through our actions, Vincentians set an example for others to follow and share the joy of the Gospel.

And though the impact of our work cannot fully be known on this side of heaven, the Frédéric and Amélie Ozanam Legacy Society offers a unique opportunity for Vincentians and Benefactors to unite in a community of spirituality, friendship, and service, leaving a legacy of faith and a path to holiness for the next generation.

“As each of us grows older, may we also grow in friendship, piety, and zeal for good! May our whole life be spent under the patronage of those to whom we consecrated our youth: Vincent de Paul, the Virgin Mary, and Jesus Christ our Savior.”

– Blessed Frédéric Ozanam



You have lived your life's journey with faith and values.

You have supported the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's work with the poor while bringing God's presence to your family, your faith community, and the world at large. Your generosity has already started the legacy you will leave behind when our loving God calls you home.

To continue your legacy of generosity and faith, we ask you to prayerfully consider joining the Frédéric & Amélie Ozanam Legacy Society by including the National Council of the U.S., Society of St. Vincent de Paul in your Will or Trust.

“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

– Proverbs 11:25

Through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you can continue your legacy of faith.

Benefits to You

Brings a sense of God's peace, knowing you are continuing SVdP's legacy of helping the poor.

Leaves a legacy that supports future generations of Vincentians serving the poor in communities across the country.

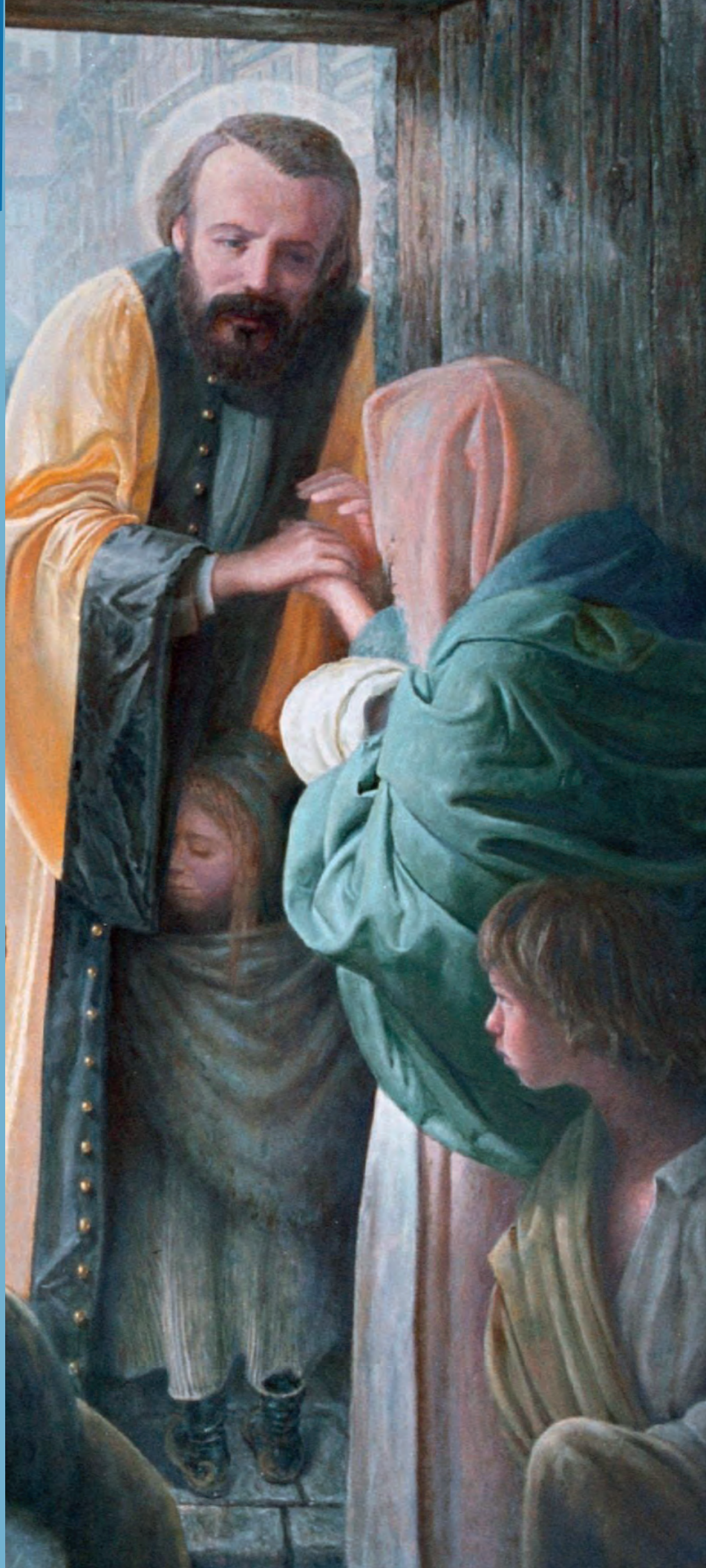
Belonging to a special community of benefactors united in prayer and faith.

Does not reduce your income, nor diminish your savings.

Sets an example of generosity and service for your heirs.

Could help minimize the taxes of your heirs.

The National Council of the U.S., Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.





Donor Spotlight

Trace Trylko

Not long after his mother's passing in October 2006, Trace Trylko found himself skimming the parish bulletin before Mass when he noticed an upcoming meeting of the local Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Remembering that his grandmother volunteered at her nearby SVdP Thrift Store and that his mother liked to shop there, he felt called to attend a meeting.

A desire to volunteer soon became much more. Trace is now celebrating 15 years as a Vincentian, and has served as St. Vincent de Paul Orlando's first-ever Executive Director since 2011. In addition to his work with his local Conference, he also contributes to the Society at the national level, producing, reporting, and hosting the Society's EWTN series: "Our Faith in Action: Today's Society of St. Vincent de Paul."

Trace also supports the Society's mission and work as a member of the National Council's Legacy Society. "My mom's death forced me to look at life in different ways," he reflects. "We don't leave this Earth with possessions. We can leave behind a legacy. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been important to me for the past 15 years and will continue to be the rest of my life. Remembering the Society in my will allows my life's service to continue after my stay here ends."

Trace says it's the little moments, "like seeing the relief on a neighbor's face when we're able to keep the lights on or make sure a family stays in their home" that bring him joy and reaffirm his commitment to the Society. He hopes his gift will help sustain more of those little moments. "Perhaps a few bigger moments, too. I'd especially like to know my legacy continues through educational opportunities for young people, be they from families struggling in poverty and/or first-generation students."

Trace wants others to join the Legacy Society. "The Society existed before me, it exists with me, and I know it's going to continue long after me. I want to know I'm paying it forward to keep the Society strong in its outreach to those in need."

*“The Lord never asks for your ability –
it's your availability that He asks for.
Once you make yourself available,
everything else will come into place.”*

– Pamela Matambanadzo
Vincentian & National Council Board Member



Donor Spotlight

Guadalupe Sosa



Guadalupe Sosa's roots go deep. A resident of Phoenix, AZ, she grew up in Queen Creek, less than an hour away from her current home. Her maternal great-grandmother was born in 1868 in Tucson, making a total of seven generations born and raised in Arizona. "And I'm a pretty proud Catholic," she reflects. "My family is Catholic going back generations to my great-grandmother. I was born a Catholic and I'll die a Catholic."

Long active in her community through work with her son's Boy Scout troop, it's her Catholic faith that led Guadalupe to join the Society, first as a Vincentian volunteer with the Phoenix Council, where she currently serves as a member of the Spirituality and Formation Committee. As if that doesn't keep her busy enough, she is also a member of the Western Region's Spanish Formation and Newsletter Committees and serves as National Secretary for the National Council's Board of Directors.

Guadalupe was unfamiliar with just how much support the National Council provides to local Conferences until she joined the Board in 2017. "I didn't realize how well the services that they provide really go down to the Conference level, whether it be providing the materials that we use for teaching, classes, webinars — all of that comes from the national office," she remarks.

Guadalupe's work with the National Council has taken her far from Arizona at times. She traveled to France as part of the Vincentian Heritage Pilgrimage, and also represented the U.S. at the Mexico National Assembly in 2018. But wherever she goes on behalf

of the Society, she finds that the Vincentian values of spirituality, friendship, and service remain the same.

"It really dawned on me that we are truly an international society, an international organization. Right now, we're in 153 countries around the world. It makes me feel good to be part of the organization, knowing that we're basically all doing the same type of work."

For Guadalupe, that's a big reason she's including the National Council in her estate plans. Her roots may be in Arizona, but she can see and feel the Society's impact across the country — and around the world.

"That's what's really important in setting up a legacy. [My gift] could help people in Phoenix, but it could help people in Florida, it could help people in Alaska, and it could help people in anywhere in Europe or Australia. And that's I think, for me it that it's global. It's a worldwide organization," she says.

Guadalupe knows that gifts like hers are helping the least of our brothers and sisters. She says, "I want to contribute to an organization I believe in, and I know my money is well-spent [here]."

Ways to Leave Your Legacy of Faith

Joining The Frédéric & Amélie Ozanam Legacy Society is easy, no matter the size of your estate. This can be as simple as naming the National Council as a beneficiary in your retirement plan, making a provision in your will or trust for a specific gift percentage, or contributing to the National Council's Endowment. No matter your wishes, our team can help you customize your gift of any size to your family's unique situation and estate planning goals.

AS A BENEFICIARY

- Retirement Plans such as an IRA, 401(k), 403(b), Keogh or profit-sharing pension plan
- Life Insurance Policy
- Checking or Savings Account
- Certificate of Deposit
- Commercial Annuity
- Mutual Fund or Financial Account

IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST

With a Will or Trust in place, your state of residence will carry out your final wishes, ensuring that your loved ones and the charities you care about are taken care of, even in your absence. As you plan or update your Will or Trust, please prayerfully consider including the National Council of the U.S., Society of St. Vincent de Paul as a beneficiary.

AN ENDOWMENT TO BUILD A FOUNDATION THAT LASTS

We are on a mission to build a network of charities that encircles the world. It's not just about our work today, but about creating a thriving Society for the next 175 years. When you give to National Foundation's endowment, you help ensure your Vincentian values and experiences will be passed on to the next generation of Vincentians to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world.





Donor Spotlight

Ralph Middlecamp

For Vincentians, Ralph Middlecamp is probably best known as President of the National Council. But his relationship with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul extends much further back than that. “I had been on the board of directors of Catholic Charities and even President of Catholic Charities probably 35 – 40 years ago. And when that term was done, I looked for what else to do,” he recalls.

“I saw the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as a Catholic organization that had the mission of helping people in need. And it was kind of a dying organization at that point. So, I thought I would go over and infiltrate them. And obviously, instead, they infiltrated me.”

Ralph had previously volunteered with unhoused populations in his home city of Madison, Wisconsin, so he was drawn to the idea of serving neighbors in need with the Society. But it quickly became more than that. “There was a spirituality to it. And there is a community of people around it — it wasn’t just volunteering to do these hard works.”

For Ralph, it’s a matter of putting his faith into action. “It’s part of seeing Christ in others and acting on it. It’s not just a theoretical thing. If you belong to Society, it’s real.”

After serving as a Vincentian, a member of the thrift stores committee, and even as CEO of the Madison Council, Ralph has seen the Society from a lot of perspectives over his 35 years of service. And one of those perspectives is on the importance of the work done by the National Council.

“There are certain core functions of the Society that need to be supported. People will give their time, they will do the work. But it’s important that the base of the Society is present...to do the training, to recruit new members to do the behind-the-scenes work.”

Ralph and his wife Cathy are remembering the National Council in their giving plans because the National Council directly supports the work being done by local Vincentians across the country. “A gift to the National Council really serves the members throughout the whole country...People see the Society locally, but they understand it everywhere. And it’s important to have uniform training to use the best resources available. Having a network of friends who can share their best practices and their spirituality is very important for the health of the organization.”

Gifts to the National Council honor the Society’s past while also helping develop the next generation of leaders and the next set of best practices to inform their work. “I’m just very grateful for a long legacy of people that have given their money, their time, and their wisdom and creativity to Society. We’re really built on the shoulder of giants,” he reflects.



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Founded in Paris in 1833 by Frédéric Ozanam and a group of college students who were challenged to put their faith into action, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is one of the oldest charitable institutions in the world.

The students were challenged by a classmate as to what good the Catholic Church was doing in present day France, where conditions of poverty were often appalling. They decided to put their faith into action and serve the poorest of the poor in Paris. Today, we honor their legacy by putting our faith into action in the same way, serving the poor in our local communities across the country and around the world.

We are a network of friends, inspired by gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

We don't provide handouts or a one-size-fits-all approach to serving others; we create and nurture relationships with those we serve.

Our vocation is to follow Christ through service to people in need and bear witness to His love. The beauty of that vocation is that we see the face of Christ in those we serve.

We go in pairs to visit the homes of those who call for help, allowing us to share in their humanity, bringing hope and friendship to situations that might have previously felt hopeless.

Vincentians are men and women of every age, every race, every income level, who share our blessings of time, talent, and treasure with neighbors in need. No work of charity is foreign to the Society. From our thrift stores and food pantries, to disaster recovery and prison reentry, to advocacy and systemic change, we serve our communities however they need it most. Like the Good Samaritan, we're ready to help everyone regardless of religion, age, or background.

The National Council of the United States, Society of St. Vincent de Paul provides spiritual formation, servant leadership training, and other resources to support the work of nearly 90,000 Vincentians throughout 4,428 local Conferences and 500 Councils.



“Human actions become actions of God when they are performed in Him and through Him.”

— St. Vincent de Paul

*“Go into
the house of the poor;
you will find
God there.”*

— St. Vincent de Paul



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