

FREE

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL



Frederic Ozanam Founder of SVP

CORK REGION

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2008

Brendan Dempsey

SVP Cork Regional President



Some of us will remember Granny singing the old song "Long have you lingered around my cabin door, hard times come again no more". Well the bubble has burst and we seem to be back where we were 15 or 20yrs ago. The dreams that we had of an end to queues at A&E, the abolishing of hospital waiting lists, housing for all, decent school buildings for our children and of course work, work for all, well paid good jobs. Well it seems they were just that, dreams.

I knew for certain that the good times were over when I listened to a representative of the business world on radio demanding a cut of €1 an hour in the minimum wage. Don't they realise that there are 294,000 of our people living in constant poverty, that means that they are not quite sure where the next meal is coming from, that the ESB will probably be cut off once or twice during the coming year because the bill won't be paid. Families where the children have stopped asking for the extras like money for swimming or anything at school that costs extra because they know the money isn't there. Add to that another 559,400 people living in relative poverty. What's that you might ask? Relative poverty means that people can put meals on the table, they can juggle the funds and while they may be in arrears at times they do manage to pay ESB, gas and rent. However throw a spanner in the works say the 10 or 12 year old car breaks down, its needed for work, or two of the children need new shoes at the same time or the cooker or washing machine goes kaput and real panic sets in.

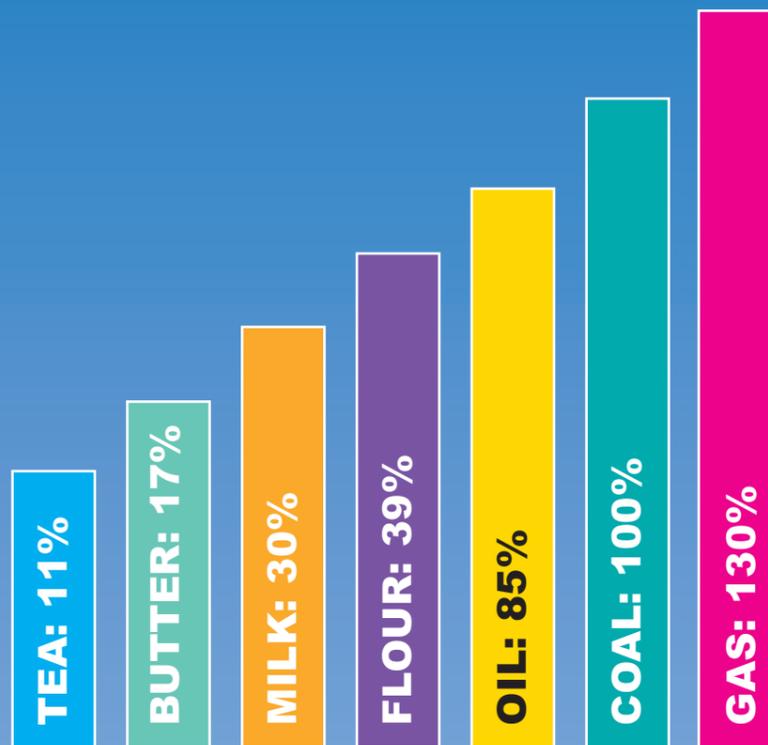
We are facing real problems, its bad enough that the cost of essentials have risen so much, flour - 39%, milk - 30%, butter - 17%, ESB - 17%, tea - 11%, coal - 100%, oil - 85% and can it be right gas by 130%? And tighten your belt because gas and ESB are going up again. For those on Social Welfare the rise they get at Budget times is never

enough to keep up with the cost of living. If you have no income you starve, if your income is not adequate you depend on others to help you. If any of us neglect what we have; our car or our home, it costs more in the long run to get things put right again. When the state neglects its obligation of upkeep on either buildings, be they schools or hospitals or of families or people who are unable to look after themselves, it costs more in the long run and causes needless suffering and anxiety.

It needn't be all doom and gloom, there is enough for all, it's a matter of dividing the national cake, not equally but fairly. Business must be looked after with concessions in the interest of creating jobs. I'm not sure about tax free status for horse breeders and artists and I fail to understand the legal costs paid for by the state in recent years and indeed other silly things like rent paid for housing election equipment. It's simply a matter of looking at how money is spent. I'm delighted so many did well from the "tiger", they deserve all they have, hard work etc but I feel sorry for those who almost made it. Trying to get from rented accommodation to their own home and bit off more than they could chew and can't now meet the mortgage, even those who tried to get a second house or a holiday home, we all dream. One thing is certain it's going to be a hard year ahead; requests for help are up by 44% this year. We need an urgent increase in fuel allowance, rent allowance, we don't need talk or strategies, we need money now for the coming winter. Was it Darwin who noted "it's not the strongest or the most intelligent that survives, but those who can best adapt to change". Well whatever change comes we will be here to do what we can and with your help we will take the sting out of the coming winter.

Thank you for your support.

FEELING PINCH AS TIGER SICKENS



How prices have risen

INSPECTORS MUST GET MORE RESOURCES

Rent Standards Highlight Poor Accommodation



By Brendan Hennessy
SVP Social Policy Officer

SVP members have consistently expressed their concern about the poor quality accommodation they encounter on their visitation work. In the majority of instances this is in the private rented sector. After the recent Prime-time investigation in Cork and Dublin which showed the shocking condi-

tions some vulnerable tenants must endure, the Government have moved to set minimum standards for private rented accommodation.

These proposals include:

- A separate bathroom with toilet and sink and shower with hot water
- Cooking facilities such as oven and grill, microwave fridge and freezer
- At a minimum communal washing

machine, and dryer or clothesline in yard.

- Proper, pest and vermin-proof refuse storage facilities.
- Effective heating with proper ventilation.

The necessity for such 'minimum' standards may be surprising but they reveal the poor quality accommodation some of our most vulnerable people have had to endure. The key to any new standards will be enforcing the regulations and to this extent the SVP

continues to call for more resources for Local Authority Inspectorates.

With continuing high fuel prices the SVP feel that minimum energy efficiency and insulation standards will be required to ensure vulnerable tenants such as older people and people with disabilities do not find their small incomes literally going up in smoke.

Help Us to Help Those in Need

Please remember the Society when making your Will



New Tenancy Support Officer Appointed

The Society has appointed John Calnan as Tenancy Support Officer for the Cork region. His role will be to support homeless people in their transition from Emergency Homeless Accommodation to rental accommodation and Social Housing Projects.

He will lead the development of a structured plan to ensure that a tenancy can be maintained and to provide an ongoing, time limited support structure to practically assist in protecting the tenancy for each client. The role also involves the promotion of access to education, training or work opportunities for clients. He will work closely with Management and Staff of our two homeless hostels St Vincent's and Deerpark House as well as local Statutory and Voluntary agencies.

John has worked with the Society for the last 7yrs and was a Project Worker in St. Vincent's Hostel, one of the biggest hostels for the homeless in Ireland offering support to the men staying there.

John is also an active member of the Real Presence Conference in Curraheen. Last year he graduated from UCC as a Youth & Community worker and is set to return this year to do his Masters in Voluntary and Community Management.

Prior to working with the SVP, John also worked with a number of other charities including Cope Foundation and Brothers of Charity. He also spent a number of years in social care working with the Elderly in the community.

We would like to take this opportunity in wishing John good luck in his new post.



Tim Savage (St Vincent Hostel Manager) with John Calnan (Tenancy Support Officer) outside one of SVP Social Housing Projects.

SUMMER DAY-OUT SCHEME

The SVP offers a special service to the people of Cork, that we call "a day out in the Summer". This scheme provides over 5,000 people in Cork city and county to a day trip to Fota Wildlife Park during the month of July. We provide the entry ticket, a meal voucher and a trip on the Fota tour train. We also provide Iarnrod Eireann train tickets to Fota, for the families and individuals who require them. Last year over 5,400 people availed of this scheme and this cost the SVP over €40,000. Our home visitation teams throughout the Region offer this day-out to those they feel would benefit most from it.

Many of the people who go on this outing do not go on a regular summer holiday and regard this as their big day out for the whole year. Some have never been outside the city before. We get a number of cards and other "thank yous" after the event and the people of Cork love this project.



Some of the animals at Fota Wildlife Park

The "Day out in the Summer" Scheme has provided great memories and fun for those who have participated. Unfortunately it is now under threat as the demands on our core work, which is Home Visitation, are on the rise, and our income streams are on the decline. The income disparity between the well-off and less well-off is growing continually. Our services are in more demand than ever and we are always trying to improve them.

We appeal to you, to value the work we do and the important role we fill in the Cork Region. We want to keep our "Day out in the Summer" Scheme because we know it brings great joy to those who participate. We are currently looking for sponsorship to continue this very worthwhile programme.

Holiday Time at Knockadoon!

By Tim O'Connell

President of Blessed Contardo Ferrini

The Conference of Blessed Contardo Ferrini provided holidays this year for 112 children in the Dominican Holiday Camp at Knockadoon, near Ballymacoda in East Cork.

The children enjoyed an action packed week with activities like swimming, crab fishing, arts & crafts, talent show, bingo, discos etc. The children also had not one but six bouncy castles, slides, obstacle courses & gladiator activities for the full day on Thursday. The fun ended with a spectacular fireworks display on the Friday night. These activities were made possible as a result of fundraising carried out by some of our volunteers.

It was a very successful week where 112 children all went home with smiles on their faces and memories to cherish. The Conference would like to thank our National president Mairead aBushnell for her continued support. She visited the camp again this year and as always was put working during her visit!! Our Regional President, Brendan Dempsey, Special Work President Jim Burke & Regional Administrator Pdraig McCarthy were also very welcome visitors during the week.



Children having a swim at Knockadoon

Please remember to register yourself on www.corkminimarathon.com to enter the marathon.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN IRELAND

Help us to raise much needed funds for Saint Vincent De Paul by joining our team in a FUN RUN/WALK through the streets of Cork on 28th September 2008. Fantastic event for women of ALL ages and fitness levels.

For sponsorship card, t-shirt and further information please contact: Linda, SVP, Tuckey Street, Cork 021 427 0444 or email info@svp.cork.ie

• Support & friendship • Promoting self-sufficiency • Working for social justice

"Respecting the right of all to participate economically and socially in society"

If you would like to set up your own fundraising page for running in the marathon for SVP visit www.mycharity.ie and it will guide you through the steps.



UCC RAG WEEK RAISES MUCH NEEDED FUNDS

UCC Saint Vincent de Paul Society were pleased with the announcement back at the start of 2008 that the Society was chosen as a Charity for UCC RAG Week which has the aim of students to Raise and Give to Charities. UCC SVP Society was one of three charities to receive a sum of €12,000.

The money raised not only will be used for the UCC SVP Society but also for SVP Cork. The money will be put to great use through out Cork in our activities and outreaches to the Community.

UCC SVP Society would like to thank UCC Students, UCC and anyone else who helped out in the raising of donations.



Member of Society Committee presenting UCC SVP with cheque

THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL IN FERMOY

BY PADRAIG MCCARTHY

Cork Regional Administrator

On Wednesday September 24th the members of St Patrick's Conference, Fermoy will celebrate the 150th anniversary of their founding. This will take place in St Patrick's church where the Conference was founded 150 years ago. The celebration will begin with Mass at 7.30pm after which the National President Mairead Bushnell will present long service medals to members who have been in the Society over 25 years. We are very fortunate to have a record of the first meeting of the Conference which was given to me by present member of the Conference, Mary White. The following is an excerpt from that record;

The first Irish Conference was founded in Dublin in 1844-just eleven years after the birth of the Society in Paris. From then on the Society spread all over Ireland until today, one hundred and thirty-six years later, there are nearly one thousand Irish Conferences with well over 12,000 members. As in other countries these Conferences are grouped under Area Councils which in turn are grouped under Regional Councils over all is a National (based in Dublin) headed by a National President. It is interesting to note that in recent

times, two Fermoy men in turn held this supreme office, namely the late William M. Cashman and later his younger brother Robert. Our National President is Mairead Bushnell who was previously the Cork Regional President.

St Patrick's Conference in Fermoy was founded as far back as 1858- less than five years after Frederic Ozanam had died in Marseilles at the early age of 40. the opening pages of the first minute-book of this Conference (in beautiful copperplate, the ink now rust-coloured, and on thick blue water-marked paper) tell of the special meeting called to set up a branch of the Society in Fermoy. It was held in the Sacristy of St Patrick's parish church with the Bishop, the Right Rev. William Keane D.D. in the chair, on the 15th March 1858 at 7 o'clock pm. It was resolved that "a Conference of the Society of St Vincent De Paul be formed in and for the town of Fermoy". The meeting proceeded to appoint the officers - President, two Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary and Librarian. ("A Store-keeper" was appointed at a later meeting") the Bishop named the Rev. William Hickey C.C. as Spiritual Director. The town was divided into twelve districts and in each of these two members were appointed

to visit the poor and bring them help. In the list of districts there are many street-names, now almost forgotten and some that are completely forgotten, like 'Lewes' Lane, Slate Lane, Forge Lane and Lime-kiln Lane.

It was resolve that the Conference should meet every Monday evening at 8 o'clock, and so it did for well over one hundred years. In recent years, for a number of reasons the time of meeting was changed to Saturday evening at 8 o'clock. Membership and attendance in the early days was large. We read of as many as 26 active members and 30 honorary members being present at a meeting, but in time the members became less. Today there are only 14 active members and a number of honorary members, and there are only five districts in the town but the charity of the Conference is not confirmed to the U.D. boundaries it extends to the whole parish and quite often to the parishes round about it.

In the early days, funds needed to relieve the poor came from the members own contributions supplemented by public subscriptions, the proceeds of charity sermons and so on. The relief given consisted of bread (in 4lb loaves), milk (in quarts), sugar, coffee, tea, blankets, clothes

and late coal (which in the later years of the last century cost the Conference £1 per ton). But there are some unusual grants e.g. "1/4 cwt of straw" (this occurred quite frequently), "five shillings to A.B. to releaser clothes from Pawn Office", "five shillings to Widow X to stock her basket". The last mentioned grant is found often and invariably was made to widows.

I am confident this will be a wonderful enriching experience and trust as many members as possible will make the effort to attend.



St. Patrick's Church, Fermoy



SVP GOLF CLASSIC JUNE 2008

We had a great day at Monkstown Golf Club on Friday 20th June. Despite the poor weather earlier in the week the sun shone all day and all participants enjoyed the day.

This was our third year running the event and this year it was generously sponsored by many companies and individuals. The overall major sponsor was Ascon Rohcon and they were represented by their Director Mr Theo Cullinane at the prize giving.

47 teams participated in the competition. This

was a record for the event and many of these had played in the two previous SVP Golf Classics in 2006 and 2007 and raised over €17,500.

The format of the competition was one score to count at each hole.

The course was in magnificent condition and all the players enjoyed a 4 course dinner in the all new Monkstown Golf Club Restaurant afterwards.

The overall winner was the team from O'Brien & Company, Accountants, Crestfield, Glanmire,

consisting of Neville Footte, Aidan Murnane and Declan O'Sullivan with a great score of 53 points.

SVP Regional President Mr Brendan Dempsey spoke at the prize giving and thanked all those who supported the fundraising Golf Classic.

The organising committee consisted of Ken O'Reilly and Donal Shanahan of Most Precious Blood conference, Joe Tighe, President, Vincent Ferrer conference and Gary Duffy, North City Area President.

COMMON SENSE IS DEAD

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows how old he was since his birth records were one knows was long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, life isn't always fair, and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not children, are in charge). His health began to

deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place.

Reports of a six-years-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer

Panadol, sun lotion or a sticky plaster to a student: but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar can sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live,

after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son Reason.

He is survived by three stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, Someone Else is to Blame, and I'm a Victim. Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone. If you still remember him pass this on. If not join the majority and do nothing.

END TO END IRELAND

This year three ladies have come together to raise funds for St Vincent De Paul in Cork. On the 16th August they began a week long cycle which began at Malin Head and finished at the furthestmost tip of Ireland, Mizen Head. They have a website set up www.caitrionamccarthy.com where you can check on their daily adventures and progress they made and the money they raised. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their huge effort and choosing St Vincent De Paul as their charity.



Sinéad, Julia & Caitriona enjoying the 'good weather' on the first day of their trip

Society of St Vincent de Paul

SVP NEWSLETTER

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in Cork in 1846. Members follow the tradition of their founder, a 21-year-old student, Frederic Ozanam, and work to help those in need. There are 1,000 voluntary members of the SVP in the Cork Region. This Newsletter is published by the Communications Conference of the Society.

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For more information visit www.svp.ie
Global contributions welcome

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DIOCESAN FOLDER CORK & ROSS

Fr. Tom Hayes

Director of Pastoral Planning,
Diocese of Cork and Ross



SPRING 2008

NEW LIFE FOR KNOCKAVILLA CHURCH

There's a confident mood emerging in the northern part of Innishannon parish as the local church has reopened after an extensive refurbishment.

St. Patrick's Church at Knockavilla dates from around 1790 – at least 30 years prior to Catholic Emancipation – and has received a major refurbishment which will see it through many more decades. The work included a new roof, a new

belfry, complete re-plastering of the interior, new seating, and upgrading of all utilities and services.

The parish has also refurbished St Mary's Church in Innishannon in recent times. The cost of the Knockavilla project has been met through the generosity of a donor which parish priest Fr John Kingston announced to the parish last year before work commenced.



Interior of St. Patrick's Church, Knockavilla, after refurbishment in 2008



Cathedral Tower

CORK CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL'S 200TH BIRTHDAY

August this year is a significant milestone for the diocese, Cork city and the Cathedral parish. The Cathedral is 200 years old on August 22nd.

While the building which now stands at the top of Shandon Street has been modified significantly since then, and while the unbroken tradition of sacred worship on this spot is much longer, the 1808 dedication of the Cathedral was a major event in the history of the city.

The Cork Mercantile Chronicle newspaper of the following week gave an account of the ceremony which was presided over by the Archbishop of Cashel, Dr. Bray. The sermon was preached by the Coadjutor Bishop of Cork, Dr Florence McCarthy.

Dr Francis Moylan, Bishop of Cork, initiated the Cathedral project in 1799. The date is engraved in the holy water font in the small porch at the door facing Shandon Steeple. Nine years later, a gathering of Catholic Bishops from Munster, Kildare and Dublin, an overflow congregation (which was corralled outside by British soldiers!) and small number of civic dignitaries took part in a solemn liturgy to dedicate the Cathedral to St Mary and St Anne. For most people, it retains its affectionate title as the North Chapel.

A Mass to mark the bi-centenary is being planned for September.

A new website for the Cathedral will go live in August. www.corkcathedral.ie will carry news and updates of current activities at the cathedral and parish. It will also have historical material detailing the Cathedral's origins

and its development through history. The site will also have a comprehensive photo and video archive. Anyone who has materials such as photos, articles, drawings, etc and which they are willing to loan to the project to be scanned is invited to contact the Cathedral at (021) 4304325 or email online@corkcathedral.ie

View of Shandon from Cathedral



SVP APPEAL - In Giving We Receive

- I would like to make a regular give of €10 per month to support SVP Cork
- I would like to make a tax efficient donation of €25 per month to support SVP Cork
- I would like to make a larger gift of €_____ per month to support SVP Cork

Name:

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Mailing address:-

Society of St. Vincent de Paul,
Ozanam House,
2 Tuckey St,
Cork



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FLAG DAY

This year the Cork Region of the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul is holding its Annual Flag day on October 10th and 11th. This event has been running annually for over 50 years and is one of the most important fund-raisers for the SVP.

With so many charities operating in the country, donor fatigue can be a problem, however, the SVP is anxious to stress that all the money raised locally stays locally. In the past year the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul has spent over €4M in the Cork Region alone on assistance to those in need, helping to provide food, fuel and direct financial support as well as giving help in other ways.

The SVP services are availed of on a daily basis by thousands of less well-off people in the city and county and are a lifeline to those in need.

We would like to call on your support.