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## **SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL**



Frederick Ozanam Founder of SVP

**SPRING 2007** 

**CORK REGION** 

**NEWSLETTER** 

### Mairéad Bushnell SVP Cork

Regional President



The SOCIETY OF ST.VINCENT DE PAUL is committed to working to end poverty and so will support genuine efforts to achieve that goal. As a result, our Society welcomed the publication of the Government's new National Action Plan on Social Inclusion, effectively, a State programme to end poverty. But there are questions to be raised about it.

In their plan, the Government has pledged to reduce the number of those experiencing consistent poverty to between 2 and 4 per cent of the population by 2012 and to eliminate it by 2016. This plan follows the Government's previous 10-year plan. Much of the focus of the new blueprint is on 'activation measures.'

However, the previous 10-year Government plan which tackled poverty between 1997 and 2006 did not meet its key targets. It had been aimed to reduce levels of consistent poverty to 2 per cent or to eliminate it by 2007. Clearly, this target was not achieved.

## LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF THE DEPRIVED

The SVP may not be popular in political circles for raising questions and issues such as this, but our task is not to court popularity. We seek to help the poor and those who are deprived. We may not always be popular when we work towards such a goal, but that is why we exist, that is why we are involved in dealing with matters of social concern.

The current trend in Government thinking is that in future the provision of welfare benefits will be linked to schemes that encourage people to move from welfare to work. The official stance is that the best path out of poverty is through a job and while the SVP is broadly supportive of this development there remain questions, such as – Why is the path from poverty to prosperity strewn with traps which can thwart the efforts of people moving from welfare to work?

For many on Social Welfare or in low-paid employment life would be very stark were it not for the availability of Secondary Benefits to supplement low incomes. Benefits such as Rent Supplement, the Medical Card, Family Income Supplement, Fuel Allowances and the Backto-School-Clothing and Footwear Allowance are essential daily lifestyles to people who would otherwise be suffering considerable hardship. Members of the SVP work hard to ensure that the people they visit receive all the secondary benefits they are entitled to, making their daily struggle in life a little less difficult.

These 'Poverty Traps' centre on the loss of secondary benefits when taking up employment and specifically to the period of time, or the income threshold after which a benefit is withdrawn. Another poverty trap is the lack of accessible and affordable childcare facilities, particularly in disadvantaged areas.

These 'traps' and others, demoralise people trying to make the transition from welfare to work. Having a job, being able to support oneself and one's family, are crucial to personal well-being and survival.



### **JOYOUS CELEBRATIONS**

A former SVP member who was involved in hospital visitation as a Dominican student and who has now been ordained to the priest-hood returned to Cork to celebrate Mass for the Conference with which he had previously worked.

It was a great joy for Our Lady Help of Christians and St Matthew Conference when John Walsh was appointed, after ordination, as Chaplain to the Dominican College, Newbridge, Co. Kildare. Fr John has responsibility for 370 students, as well as parish duties.

He returned to Cork to celebrate Mass for the Society members at St Vincent's Hostel in Anglesea Street.

### **HELPING IMMIGRANTS IN CARRIGTWOHILL**

### by Mary Carey

Like many other communities in Ireland the village of Carrigtwohill is facing the challenges of change brought about by the general economic prosperity of the country, which has changed this rural community with a traditional village at its core in to a burgeoning new town.

This can be seen from the number of new houses and housing estates, new factories, the planned re-opening of the rail link between Cork and Midleton and other infrastructural developments as laid out in the County Development Plan. One of the many consequences of this development is that Carrigtwohill is experiencing an influx of people from outside its traditional parish boundaries who have come to live and work in the area.

The more recent influx of people contains many who are from Europe particularly from Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Russia and its associated States, the African 31 Different Nationalities Are Served By SVP Carrigtwohill Family Resource Centre

Continent, the Middle East, India and China. It is estimated that there are as many as thirty-one different nationalities now living in Carrigtwohill. Some have come to work in the construction industry or agriculture, others are here as refugees or asylum seekers.

This growth in population has resulted in an increased demand for services on an already overburdened system, which is also having to adjust and accommodate not only the particular needs of the new arrivals. The interface between the service provider and immigrants is fraught with problems, which are caused by an incomplete understanding of the differences between various cultures. Language is one major obstacle to be overcome together with an understanding of the codes of behaviour, which govern social relationships between adults and children along with other social customs and practices. In order to address these matters the Society of St. Vincent de Paul through its local Resource

Centre in partnership with others held a seminar in the Midleton Park Hotel on the theme of developing a greater understanding between Irish culture and that of the many others, which are evidenced in the community

As a follow up to that event a steering committee comprising of representatives from the immigrant communities and local people has been set up to look at methods and approaches to develop a greater understanding, respect and awareness of each others culture.

One approach being considered is whether making local festivals and events more inclusive by encouraging participation by people from other cultures and countries, would benefit cultural links.

The centre has organised, in conjunction with Cork County VEC, a number of classes in basic English. Under this scheme twenty hours of free tuition is provided by a paid tutor. Volunteers are also used in a supportive role to deliver of these classes.

Classes in English "ESOL" at a more advanced intermediate level have also been organised. These classes are certified and a minimum charge of 30 is levied on each participant.

### Polish Community

The Society of St. Vincent De Paul together with two Polish volunteer Social Workers has set up a special clinic for the Polish Community. This service offers advice and support where needed and helps eliminate the language barrier which many encounter when trying to seek assistance. The clinic operates from the Regional Office at Tuckey Street from 6pm to 8pm every Wednesday night.

### NEW CONFERENCE FOR GLANMIRE

The Society has set up a new Conference in Glanmire called St. Stephen's. It serves the Sallybrook, Riverstown and Glanmire areas. Nine members have joined the Society and Deirdre Kenneally has been appointed President. This area has experienced huge population growth over recent years.

### **SVP GOLF CLASSIC**

The Conference of Precious Blood on behalf of the Society will be holding a Golf Classic on Friday 8th June 2007 at Monkstown Golf Club. If anyone wishes to enter a team or contribute to sponsorship please contact Gary Duffy on 086-2471532 or you can Email garyduffy@excelsys.com. A tee-box or a green can be sponsored for €100-€250. All donations gratefully received and will be appropriately acknowledged on the day.

### INSIDE: SVP links Mitchelstown and Uganda











## **SVP CORK WINS NATIONAL TRAINING AWARD**

by Ellemarie Spillane-Dowd Training Office, Cork Region

As you are aware we in the SVP have a reputation for hiding our light under a bushel but on this occasion we can allow ourselves a little pat on the back for this wonderful achievement.

The SVP has been training its volunteers all over the country since 1992 through a dedicated training team, however training has progressed hugely in the past 4 years and it was with all of this work in mind that we entered the IITD National Training Awards under the community and voluntary sector.

This required us to fill in a detailed form along with a 2000 word essay stating how we progressed training in the SVP and from this we were nominated for an award. The fact we were nominated showed that those expert in the field of training were appreciating the progress we have made in training especially over the past 4 years.

Representing the SVP were, Mairead Bushnell Cork Regional President, also (Chair of the National Training Team) along with Ellmarie Spillane-Dowd Cork Regional Trainer and

prised, honoured and delighted when they announced that the SVP had won the overall award in the voluntary and community sector and it was with great pride that we accepted this award on behalf of the SVP.

This award raises our profile among other organisations, and its shows that by investing in training that the organisation benefits as a whole. However in the SVP it is those we serve, that benefit long-term from the skills and knowledge our members gain when they attend the many training courses offered by volunteers all over the country.

The SVP has a wonderful reputation in the community and easily attracts new volunteers, although our challenge today is to keep volunteers. One of the many ways to do this is to deliver training programmes that are appropriate to the work we do and to do so in a professional manner. New volunteers expect a great deal from us as an organisation and we must be prepared to pass on the knowledge and skills to them so this organisation remains vibrant in the community and deliver the best service to the people we serve.



## **SVP** finds continuing problems 'on the ground'





As part of the Society's Three Year Plan a group of volunteers came together to help gather information from SVP Conferences around the The "From the Ground-Up" group work on the simple method of making regular telephone contact with Conferences to hear about the common problems they encounter. With over 40 volunteers in 20 counties the Society hears very quickly about new and persistent problems facing disadvantaged families in urban and rural Ireland.

Last year the From the Ground-Up team received 130 pieces of policy information covering 30 different issues. The majority of these were found to be problems throughout the country and ranged from access to medical care for the elderly, to psychological assessments for school children, to the cost of private waste management for poorer families. They also heard the heartfelt concerns of both SVP members and the voices of those facing the weekly struggle of living on a low income.

In one county a Society member reported her concern over poor quality housing:

"The most memorable thing for me about the two of these flats was the overriding smell of damp and bitter I can't imagine anyone having to live, eat and sleep in those conditions. There are simply no other words for it - the building was no better than a slum.

In another we hear the struggle of a young mother trying to access education:

"As a lone parent in full-time education I am finding things extremely difficult financially. I receive no rent allowance and as a result the money I get for the grant every week goes straight on rent. All I'm left with then is my lone parents income and out of this I have to pay the crèche fees every week of  $\in$ 120, all in all I'm left with a sum of  $\in$ 70 or  $\in$ 80 a week for me and my child to survive on."

Families living in poor accommodation and on low incomes are more likely to suffer from poor health and lower education attainment. With such persistent problems, in particular the effects of poverty traps, the challenge for the SVP today is to break the cycle of poverty. By assisting households with basic needs such as food and fuel and by investing in the educational future of our young people the SVP is working hard to achieve justice for people on the ground. The challenge for us all, including the Government, is to recognise that poverty continues to be experienced by a significant number of people in Ireland today.

### **HOW 20-YEAR-OLDS LED THE WORLD AND** NAMED THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Frederick Ozanam Founder of SVP

Twenty-year-old student Frederic Ozanam with a few friends started the Society of St.Vincent de Paul in Paris on April 23, 1833. It was a time when the church in France was the object of bitter hostility following the revolutions of 1789 and 1830.

It is a tribute to youth and a remarkable example which can be followed by young people today that, well aware of the very difficult political, social and economic problems of their times, these young men, students starting out on their careers, on their future lives, all in their early 20s, did not waste their time or energy on useless controversies. Instead, they preferred to commit themselves to an active, moral and material service to the most deprived

Favouring a practical, direct approach to dealing with poverty, they involved themselves, with their own efforts, whatever funding they had or could raise amongst themselves, their friends and others who supported them and endeavoured to alleviate the many, various forms of suffering which they found amongst their less fortunate fellow citizens in the conditions of Paris in the 1830s.

Their belief was that Christian charity would ultimately prove the best means of achieving greater social justice amongst the early victims of what was the Industrial Revolution. This is the path followed today by the members of the Society of St. Vincent

de Paul in Ireland, as they work for social justice. The name of St. Vincent de Paul was chosen for the Society when a new member who joined the original group suggested that St. Vincent de Paul should be chosen as the Patron saint for the group. The group had already made strong contacts with Sister Rosalie Rendu who belonged to the order founded by St.Vincent de Paul's friend, Louis de Marillac.

When the suggestion that St.Vincent de Paul be adopted as their Patron was put forward at their meeting, Frederic Ozanam replied:

"An excellent idea. Let's remember that we are choosing a patron for his example and not simply to use some name in a haphazard way. We should regard him as the kind of saint we can try to follow. Why not call ourselves the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?"

All those present at the meeting agreed and so the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was given the name it still proudly carries today as the members of the SVP in modern times continue to follow the vision of a regeneration of society based on the message of social justice in the Gospels, as laid down by the founder of the SVP.



### **SVP SUPPORTING SCHOOLS**

The SVP takes great pride in visiting schools and imparting knowledge to students about the work we do. During these visits we actively encourage students to become involved with the SVP through various projects.

Colaiste Mhuire, Crosshaven spend time fundraising for the SVP. The students presented a cheque to SVP Liaison Officer, Ellmarie Spillane-Dowd.

### **SPORTING PROJECTS**

A project that is actively supported by the SVP is the Sport 4 Success programme where students from various schools doing Transition Year assist children in 5th class. One of these projects is at



St Mary's on the Hill School, Knocknaheeny on the northside of Cork City where social, & team-building skills are taught through the medium of sport. It's a fun way for children to learn subjects from Maths to Geography and finishing with a game. The older students learn the skill of volunteering their time so others benefit from their knowledge and skills.

The follow-on to this programme is Food 4 Success in conjunction with Failte Ireland where children in 6th class are given lessons on food safety, preparation, table setting and presentation, as well as the skills of serving at table.

At the end of each course the children receive a certificate and a token for participating in the programme.

### The Conference of Contardo Ferrini

This conference will once again be hosting the annual holiday for children in Knockadoon this year on the 30th June for one week.

Society of St Vincent de Paul =



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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## **UPDATE ON 'OUR PLAN'**

The Leadership Project Neasa O'Riordan

SVP Regional Plan Co-ordinator



Our Plan has now entered the third and final year of the implementation process. Much valuable work has been done and many Conferences are now much stronger due to the successes in particular of the Conference Revitalisation, Making a Difference and Education projects.

Another project, the Leadership project, has now been developed in recognition of the many pressures and challenges leaders in the Society

encounter in their work with the SVP. The next programme to be run in April and May 2007 is specifically for members in the Cork, Kerry and Mid-West Regions. The overall aim of the program is to develop a strong culture of leadership throughout the Society.

This programme has been especially designed for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to develop the core skills and competencies of future leaders and to better support them in their roles as leaders. The programme will provide participants with practical tools and ideas that can be used in their roles in the Society as well as in their personal lives. It will also provide a forum for sharing ideas and practices that have proved effective in developing leadership capabilities. This programme is likely to be of most value to those who are now, or have the potential to become, leaders within SVP.

The Leadership team will come to the new Ozanam House in Mallow to deliver the programme over 3 Saturdays, 14th April, 28th April and 12th May. If any member or staff member is interested in attending this weekend, please get in touch with me at Tuckey Street.

Contact details: Neasa O'Riordan, Ozanam house, 2 Tuckey St., Cork. Tel: 021 4270444. Email: neasa@svpcork.ie

## SVP LINKS MITCHELSTOWN AND UGANDA





Liam De Roiste, Area President SVP North Cork, writes about international friendship between MITCHELSTOWN

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Mitchelstown is funding the development of six residential units at a village in South-East Uganda as part of a twinning arrangement between the North Cork area and Mbula. This is part of ' PLAN Uganda' which was first introduced to Mitchelstown by Ballyhoura Development in 2002. Mbula is a village in the Torora District of Uganda. Since the initial contact, a number of visits to Mbula have been organised by those involved in Mitchelstown and last September a group from Mbula visited Mitchelstown. The main pillar of PLAN is to afford people of both cultures an opportunity to learn from our different educational, social and industrial systems. It is a "Partnership in Learning" programme embracing entire communities.

Those of us visiting Uganda for the first time, as part of this programme, found it the experience of a lifetime. On leaving the airport in Entebbe, one is immediately struck by the sheer number of people. There were huge numbers walking the roads, congregated in front of dwellings, working in the fields, people literally everywhere. Villages appeared to be overflowing. The modesty of their dwellings was also remarkable. Most were built from home bricks and covered with galvanised iron or in many cases, elephant grass. Electricity, water or sanitation did not feature.

Our special interest was in Mbula where some Mitchellstown people visited about twelve months ago and where our visitors came from last September. This village is about 20 km from Torora, very difficult to access and has a population of about seven thousand. On arrival about a thousand people greeted us with as much tri-umphalism as any dignitary ever received in Mitchellstown. Music, song and dance routines surrounded us from every side. They looked on us as people of hope who had it within our power to free then from their poverty and the ravages of AIDS.

We were shown their village saving scheme,

an idea picked up after having visited Mitchellstown Credit Union. The modesty of the amounts saved and borrowed were indicative of the poverty that exists in this community. A loan application from a woman was for 1,000 shillings (less than 50 cent) to purchase fish for resale in the market.

With the aid of PLAN, huge progress has been made in Mbula over the past twelve months. A centre that can be used for medical and other purposes has been built. During our visit, a computer, printer and a solar power panel, sponsored by the pupils of Presentation Secondary School, Mitchelstown, was presented. For the year ahead plans are already in place for a community hall. Six residential units are also planned and the Mitchelstown Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society has undertaken to fund this development.

In addition to visiting Mbula we also visited five other villages. There was one common theme projected in every centre and that was their huge concern, anxiety and fear of AIDS. At each meeting the subject got special mention and groups of women sang songs that appeared to be specially composed for our visit. The words of these songs expressed in no uncertain terms the feelings of these people and their fear of this deadly disease.

In Mukuju we visited a health centre where we met Dr Lukoda who spoke to us about the AIDS problem. People, mostly women, come to the centre for testing. Pregnant women are also brought there to have their babies tested as the highest risk of transferring the virus from mother to child is at time of delivery. A good feature is that they now have an inexpensive drug, which is administered orally to the infant as soon as it appears. This procedure reduces the risk of transfer by 70%.

Whilst we recognised a high level of need and in many forms, there was also a great sense of family and family support in the community. For instance, homes for their elderly did not exist nor could they understand the need such. Murders or suicides do not feature.

### **CONFERENCE PROFILE:**

### SVP BALLINCOLLIG

Ballincollig Family Centre, run by the Conference of Christ Our Light, has been in operation since the early nineties. The premises are held under lease from the trustees of the Diocese of Cork and have been modernised and renovated by the SVP at a cost of €80,000.

The Conference of Christ Our Light, under its first President Sister Kathleen Snee, initially provided extensive youth facilities for the mushrooming population of Ballincollig, which in the 90s, had grown to 14,000. Youth activities were extended to include indoor football, swimming, summer trips, discos and other activities. The Conference undertook its own fundraising to pay for these and two vouth workers. This effort was supported by a of trained

The Conference also recognised the need for a Childcare Project to support the early education of children, as well as supporting single parents and disadvantaged families. The Conference paid for a professional Playschool Supervisor and secured some Government funding for the remainder of the Playschool staff. It also encouraged and financially supported the training of support staff so that the Playschool was run as a Centre of Excellence

with full Health Board approval. The Society however recognised that full funding for the Playschool could only be secured if the Playschool was given into the care of the community at large, a condition necessary to attract full Government funding. The "Little Dreams" Playschool therefore was passed directly out of the control of the Conference, but remains on the premises and 40 children are catered for daily within the Centre.

The Playschool facility is an extremely valuable one within the community and, in an endeavour to use it more fully, just over 2 years ago the Conference decided to open a Saturday morning childcare session, with fully qualified staff being funded by the Conference. It was noted that one of the issues facing non-nationals in particular within our community was that of loneliness. Non-Irish nationals were then invited to drop their children aged 3 to 7 years into our care from 10a.m to 2 p.m. each Saturday as a facility to allow the parents to just have a cup of coffee on their own or do some shopping. This service was provided free and has been extremely successful. Last September we opened the facility to all children and introduced a small charge to defray costs. This initiative is well supported and regarded as a positive development in our community.

The Conference, always on the lookout to further utilise the Family Centre, agreed to a joint venture with Foroige. The Ballincollig Action Project - a Garda Youth Diversion Project operated by Foroige - and the Conference established the Ballincollig Youth Café, designed to cater for the needs of young people in the community. Since its opening the Café has proven to be an excellent resource for the community. It was designed and decorated with the direct involvement of the young people who use the facility and the informal environment is becoming a popular place for young people to socialise and to engage in recreational activities such as pool, table tennis, music etc. The Conference has funded various alterations in the premises as well as investing substantially in computer equipment where young people engage in supervised use of modern technology with qualified leadership.

The maintenance and upkeep, insurance, light, heat etc. of the Family Centre is funded through the income from "Fred's Fashions" shop in the Family Centre, a valuable resource to the community through its income. The Family Centre is used every day of the week by many local groups, who pay a nominal rent to the Conference for the use of the facilities. These include AA, Al Anon, Legion of Mary, Prayer Groups, Adult Education and supports

Homework Groups, Community Arts and Crafts etc.

Grace McCrossan who has worked with the Conference for the past 8 years, is Secretary





SPRING 2007

# DIOCESAN FOLDER



Fr. Tom Hayes

### **MORE PARISHES ARE NOW INVOLVING PARISHIONERS**

A number of parishes across the Diocese of Cork & Ross have taken significant steps recently in responding to the changing needs of parish life. A plan for the future shape of parishes was launched in June 2005 and is being implemented in the diocese. The central part of "Pilgrim Steps" provides for more involvement by lay parishioners in all aspects of the life of the parish, including in sharing leadership in the parishes with clergy and religious.

#### Among recent developments are:

- · Carrigaline parish has nominated a new parish assembly and its members have taken part in a formation programme.
- Farranree parish and Kilmurry parish have both established new parish pastoral councils.
- Ovens parish has established its first parish assembly with a large representation of parishioners from across the parish.
- Courceys parish (Ballinspittle and Ballinadee) has formed its first parish assembly and its 40 members are currently involved in

a formation programme.

- · Mahon parish has set up its first parish assembly and they have started to deliver on a programme of work in the parish.
- Blackpool parish (including the Glen and Balllyvolane) has nominated its second parish assembly with representatives from each area of the parish.
- · Among the parishes where active plans are in place to set up pastoral groups for the first time are Togher, Crosshaven, The Lough, Innishannon, Frankfield, Turner's Cross, Monkstown and Passage West.
- · New members will shortly also be nominated onto parish assemblies in Caheragh, Glanmire, Kilmichael and Wilton -- where the first groups were put in place three years ago and in Knocknaheeny, Clogheen and the Cathedral parishes.

Also, almost all parishes of the diocese now have a Parish Finance Committee comprised of parishioners and clergy.

#### Special collection will help fund support for parishes.

A special collection to help fund the pastoral development work being provided for parishes of the diocese will be held at all churches of the diocese in May. Bishop Buckley has introduced the collection to help offset the costs of support services provided to parishes to plan for, establish and train parishioners to be involved more in parish life. The collection will part-fund qualified lay people, religious and priests who are assigned to this work by the diocese and help meet the associated costs such as office, travel and materials. The collection will be held on the weekend of May 13th.

### Church buildings re-open.

Parishioners of two parishes of the diocese are relieved with the reopening of their parish churches. The parish church of Murragh in Newcestown has been completely refurbished and has been closed for several months.

Parishioners have used the local parish hall for Mass while the Church of St. John the Baptist was closed. The church was built in 1872. The Sacred Heart Church in Monkstown is just one year older and has also undergone essential repairs to the roof and exterior of the building recently. The church was used for Sunday Mass during the works but was not available to parishioners during the week for important family events such as funerals. Further repairs to the interior as well as essential redecorating will be phase two of the project which is now being planned for. Meanwhile, its near neighbour in Carrigaline - the Church of St Mary and St John - is marking its Golden Jubilee this year. In 1957, the church opened to serve a village which has since grown to be a virtual suburb of the city. The Church of the Most Precious Blood in Clogheen (north of City) is well-known in Cork as a "wedding church" and is marking the fact that this site had its first church built there 200 years ago this year. (Part of it survives as the tower of the present church.)

## **Great Results for SVP Christmas Appeal!**

#### by Neasa O'Riordan, Regional Plan Co-ordinator

During the months of November and December the SVP, Cork Region, ran a sizeable PR and fund-raising campaign to alert the general public and businesses to their work and their need for funds. This campaign included:

- An Indirect Mail shot to all the houses in Cork city and county.
- A Direct mailing to 2036 businesses.
- · Advertisements in local newspapers, interviews and mentions on local radio stations
- · Billboards, bus shelters and cityboxes (advertisements around bins in shopping malls)

At National level, the SVP also ran TV and Radio advertisements, and generated a number of documents such as leaflets, posters etc. for use by the local Regions and Conferences.

This campaign was a great success, not just because of an increase in the funds raised, but also because it raised the awareness of the SVP and the work the Society does. Because of the breadth of the work of the SVP, from caring for the homeless through to educational initiatives, carrying out home visitation to running resource centres, the SVP must continually tell people about their work.

The campaign was launched by Irish and Munster rugby star, Ronan O'Gara. The event was also attended by the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Michael Aherne, Bishop John Buckley, Bishop Paul Colton, and the SVP Regional President, Mairead Bushnell. Ronan O'Gara spoke of the need to look after our own first. He said that the SVP works hard both locally and nationally. 'The SVP does great work and I am proud to have my name and face associated with it'. He continued, 'some of us are lucky enough to have a roof over



our heads, but for many people the next few weeks will be very tough'

During the course of the campaign people were asked to give financially as well as to join up as members. Also, over 40 new members have come forward as a result, as well as some specialist volunteers offering skills such as engineering, architecture, legal expertise and counselling.

The Society will now be able to keep in touch with the individuals and businesses which have helped them in the past. Without their generous help, we could not continue our work in the city and county, and we are truly grateful for the help

### **SVP SSIA APPEAL**

With many of the SSIA's due to mature in March and April this year, it is an opportunity for people to make a difference to the lives of those who struggle to survive. Many of the treats you intend purchasing, while initially enjoyable, will flitter away, so make one that will last. The best way to support us is by signing a monthly Direct Debit mandate form. Don't miss the opportunity to make a real difference.

	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:	
Address:	
Name of Bank:	Address of Bank:
Account No:	Branch Sort Code:
Signature:	Date:

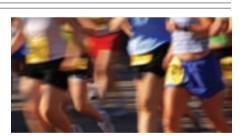
### The Direct Debit Guarantee:

This is a guarantee provided by your own Bank as a member of the Direct Debit Scheme, in which all Banks and Originators of Direct Debits participate If you authorise payment by Direct Debit, then:

- · Your Direct Debit Originator will notify you in advance of the amounts to be debited to your account
- Your Bank will accept and pay such debits, provided that your account has sufficient available funds
  If it is established that an unauthorised Direct Debit was charged to your account, you are guaranteed a prompt refund by your Bank of the amount so charged
  You can cancel the Direct Debit in good time by writing to your Bank
- - I instruct you to pay Direct Debits from my account at the request of SVP Cork
  - I confirm that the amounts to be debited are variable and may be deleted on various dates I shall duly notify the Bank in writing if I wish to cancel this instruction. I shall also so notify SVP Cork of such cancellation

Charity Ref No.: 6892 Originator's Ref: SVPCORK Originator ID No.: 304658





### **Run Cork City Marathon for SVP!**

Bank Holiday Monday, 4th June 2007, will see Cork City host its first Marathon since 1986. With Cork's proud sporting history, the participants are sure to get tremendous support as they make their way through the centre and around the 26.2 mile course. In addition to the Marathon (including a Wheelchair category), there's a Team Relay Event, in which teams of between two and five runners will compete in the 26-mile, 385-yard (42.195km) course. Now there's no excuse for not joining in! Get your friends together and run the race in aid of the SVP. Ring Neasa at 021 4270444 for a sponsorship pack. Entry forms for the race can be downloaded from www.corkcitymarathon.ie or by post from Cork City Marathon, City Hall, Cork. The closing date for entries is 11 May 2007 and all entrants must be over 18.

The race starts on St Patrick's Street, in the city centre, at 9am. The route has been kept as close to the city as possible to ensure maximum spectator involvement and will feature a leg through the Jack Lynch Tunnel. "It's a fantastic route and really brings every area of the city into play while also having the potential to generate great times for all who participate," said Cork's Lord Mayor, Michael Ahern. Join in, get fit and help the SVP!