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SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ALTOONA/JOHNSTOWN

APRIL 2020

OZANAM SUNDAY CELEBRATION

The Society celebrates the founder of Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Frederic Ozanam, with a celebration mass on the last Sunday in April. The Council General International asks that three intentions (listed below) be included on Ozanam Sunday. While this year we were not able to come together with a celebration mass we can still reflect on the intentions and the life of Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

Intentions:

- remembering of Blessed Frederick Ozanam, as an example of an active lay person in the life of the Church;
- the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul throughout the world; and
- the people assisted by the Conferences and Special Works globally.



2019 Ozanam Sunday celebration at Holy Name Church, Ebensburg.

The Life of Frédéric Ozanam

Frédéric Ozanam was born on Friday, April 23, 1813, to Jean and Marie Ozanam.^[2] He was the fifth of Jean and Marie Ozanam's 14 children, one of only three to reach adulthood.^[3] His family, which was of Jewish origin,^[4] had been settled in the region around Lyon, France, for many centuries. An ancestor of Frédéric, Jacques Ozanam (1640–1717), was a noted mathematician. Jean Ozanam, Frédéric's father, had served in the armies of the First French Republic, but with the rise to power of Napoleon Bonaparte, and the founding of the First French Empire, he turned to trade, to teaching, and finally to medicine.

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This year the Highmark walk has been changed to an online only fundraiser & virtual walk.

A virtual walk is a real walk, but it's on your terms! Anytime between May 9 and June 30, you choose how and when you walk (treadmill, park or trail, or around the neighborhood). [Click here](#) for more virtual walk details.

The **Johnstown Family Kitchen** has relied on this fundraiser for several years. Please consider donating to the event online or send donations to SVDP Diocesan Council, PO Box 231, Altoona, PA 16603. Be sure to note "Highmark Walk" in the memo.

[Click here](#) to register for the virtual walk and/or to make a donation online.

CONTACT US

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Memory/ Honor of Donation



[Click here](#) for daily reflections and a quote of the day.

Famvin Quote of the day April 22

"There is no state in the world that has not its bitterness and crosses, and which therefore does not make us desire to embrace some other condition." ...Without the cross, there could be no resurrection.



The outside crew (shown above) at the **Assumption Chapel Pantry** in Altoona are masked and gloved as they provide bread, eggs, frozen meats, and additional groceries to their clients.

The Pantry is fortunate enough to have seven RN's as part of their volunteer staff.

SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE AT PANTRY

The **Queen of Peace Pantry** has implemented a drive-thru so they can continue to serve their clients and practice “social distancing”. “The drive-thru system took some creative thinking but it seemed to work very well. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers we were able to serve in excess of 225 families.” said Jerry Greiner, Pantry Director.



GOOD FRIDAY LUNCHEON

The **Altoona Kitchen** served 300 take out meals on Good Friday. The Kitchen spread the word through Community Action's Homeless Support Program.

The pantry continues to operate on their regular schedule, the first and second Wednesday and the third Thursday of the month 9:00 am to 11:00 am. For information call 674-3346

THANK YOU S&T BANK

In January, S&T Bank held a promotion to secure 20,000 likes on their Facebook page.

People were asked to vote for a non-profit in one of the bank's five market areas and the bank would donate \$20,000 to be divided among those charities.

Johnstown Food for Families was fortunate enough to be one of the recipients of the donation.



Volunteers Denise Strittmatter (right) and George and Sandy Haluska (left) pack boxes for distribution.

JOHNSTOWN KITCHEN RECEIVES DONATION FROM WAR MEMORIAL

With the cancellation of all of the March events at 1st Summit Arena at Cambria County War Memorial, the **Johnstown Family Kitchen** became the recipient of their perishable food supplies.



Some of the items (pictured above) included hot dogs, buns, and cheese.

JOHNSTOWN KITCHEN REACHES OUT FOR HELP FOR A YOUNG VOLUNTEER

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Shawnta, was laid off from her job. To keep herself and her 10 year old son, Andre, engaged they started volunteering at the Johnstown Kitchen.

Greg Karcher, kitchen manager, learned that Andre did not have a bike so he posted on Facebook that he was looking for a bike for Andre.

Many individuals contacted Greg to donate and one special person purchased a new bike for Andre. Thank you to everyone that reached out.



Andre on his new bike with Annie who donated the bike; and Greg Karcher, kitchen manager.

ALTOONA CURVE ORGANIZES RAFFLE FOR SVDP

Sonny Consiglio, SVDP Executive Director, was contacted by Annie Choiniere, Director of Community Relations & Social Media for the Altoona Curve saying they wanted to do a fundraiser for St. Vincent de Paul to raise money for COVID-19 relief.

The result was a series of online raffles that included several pieces of Curve memorabilia. The raffle runs through April 30. A sincere thank you for their generosity in these uncertain times.



A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

O Mary, you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.
O loving Mother, you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,
the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable,
and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
sufferings and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,
O Holy Mother of God.
In our needs, despise not our petitions,
but deliver us always from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*

Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis

KNIGHTS OF  COLUMBUS



2020

The Youth Ministry Golf Outing is rescheduled for September.

The Feed the Need Rodeo has been cancelled for 2020 and rescheduled in 2021.

- **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**
Youth Ministry Golf Outing
[Park Hills Country Club](#), Altoona
9:00 AM Registration
- **SATURDAY, JUNE 6**
Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community
[Online Fundraiser and Virtual Walk](#)

2021

- **SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021**
Feed the Need Food Truck Rodeo
PNC Park, Johnstown, PA
Noon - 5:00 PM

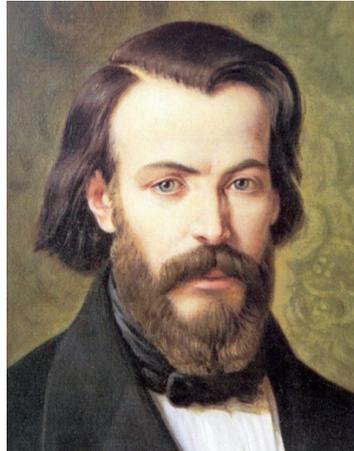
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While still a student, Frederic Ozanam (pictured left) took up journalism. Ozanam and his friends revived a discussion group called a "Society of Good Studies" and formed it into a "Conference of History" which quickly became a forum for large and lively discussions among students. Their attentions turned frequently to the social teachings of the Gospel. At one meeting during a heated debate in which Ozanam and his friends were trying to prove from historical evidence alone the truth of the Catholic Church as the one founded by Christ, their adversaries declared that, though at one time the Church was a source of good, it no longer was. One voice issued the challenge, "What is your church doing now? What is she doing for the poor of Paris? Show us your works and we will believe you!"^[1]

As a consequence, in May 1833 Ozanam and a group of other young men founded the charitable [Society of Saint Vincent de Paul](#),^[2] which already by the time of his death numbered upwards of 2,000 members. The founding members developed their method of service under the guidance of Sister Rosalie Rendu, (pictured right) a member of the Congregation of Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, who was prominent in serving the poor in the slums of Paris. The members of the conferences collaborated with Rendu during the time of the cholera epidemic. When fear had gripped the population, she organized the conferences in all the neighborhoods of Paris to care for the cholera victims, becoming well known in the city for her work, especially in the 12th arrondissement.^[3] Frederic's first act of charity was to take his supply of winter firewood and bring it to a widow whose husband had died of cholera.



In June 1841, he married Amélie Soulacroix, daughter of the rector of the University of Lyon, and the couple travelled to Italy for their honeymoon. They had a daughter, Marie.

His naturally weak constitution fell prey to consumption, which he hoped to cure by visiting Italy, but on his return to France, he died in Marseille on Thursday, September 8, 1853, at the age of 40. He was buried in the crypt of the church of St. Joseph des Carmes at the Institut Catholique in Paris.^[4]

John Paul II beatified Frédéric Ozanam on, World Youth Day, August 22, 1997. His feast day is September 9.

Majority of the information from Wikipedia.