

- 1 On many a Sunday at the back of Catholic churches will be someone collecting money for the "S.V.P." - the St Vincent de Paul Society. They are a group of people found in most parishes who volunteer to be of help to local people who are in need.
- 2 There are a million members of the S.V.P. world-wide, helping the poor locally. Over 18,000 volunteers in Britain make more than a million and a half visits each year to needy people in their homes, as well as in hospital and prisons. Special projects include holidays for the needy, charity shops, day centres and hostels for the homeless, the mentally ill and for young people at risk. They provide hostels for those on probation or bail, and also offer support to refugees, unemployed people, and those with drug or alcohol problems. The S.V.P. Society also has set up a housing association.
- 3 It was a Frenchman, Frédéric Ozanam, who founded the SVP Society. On this day in 1997 Pope John Paul II beatified him - naming him "Blessed Frédéric Ozanam", being a step on the way to calling him a saint. Saints are people put forward as an example from whom we can learn. Frédéric was a married man living with great faith and concern for other people. He wrote that he *"dreamed of encircling the whole world with a network of love and care."*

4 *Let us pray:*

**Lord, may my attitude  
and all that I think and do  
always be based on  
a spirit of love and care,  
so that I may make a difference  
in my own part of the world  
by treating people  
as individuals. Amen.**

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in  
*'Praying Each Day of the Year'*,  
a 3-volume book  
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine  
to research this topic further.

This material is part of  
the prayer and education website  
of the De La Salle Brothers  
in Great Britain:

[www.prayingeachday.org](http://www.prayingeachday.org)