



CASTERTON SVDP CONFERENCE CELEBRATED 60 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THEIR COMMUNITY

The Sacred Heart Conference of the St Vincent De Paul Society, Casterton celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. The presence of the society in our small country town is highly valued in the local community.

A group of dedicated volunteers runs a very successful "Vinnies Shop", which has the advantage of being the only Op shop in town. Money raised goes to assist people in need.

Our parish school has a wonderful "Mini-Vinnies" conference, which inspires the school families and staff to support the winter and Christmas Appeal very generously. Each year the Mini-Vinnies hold a sleep-over in the parish hall to raise money to buy Street Swags for homeless people. This initiative has won great support and admiration from people in the town.

The conference is engaged in welfare support in the form of food and fuel vouchers and occasional requests for accommodation. Members make weekly deliveries of food provided through connections with the Hamilton Uniting Church and from the local bakery, which provides fresh leftover bread. The conference also makes bereavement visits as part of its mission. Whenever there is a death in the community, a visit with a gift of a fruit cake is made. Funeral catering is also provided if requested.

For 60 years, St Vincent de Paul in Casterton have given witness to Jesus's care for people in need. This has been done simply and humbly in the spirit of Blessed Frederic Ozanam and St Vincent de Paul.

Other Conferences that were also recognised for their wonderful service included Donald - 50 years, Warracknabeal - 60 years, and Hamilton - 80 years. This is truly a tremendous achievement by all Vincentians past and present.

Frank McInerney - Casterton Conference President



Hamilton Vinnies Store (Google images)



The St Vincent de Paul members provided a BBQ lunch for the students at Sacred Heart Primary School Casterton