

A THUMBNAIL HISTORY OF THE SAINT VINCENT
DEPAUL SOCIETY IN THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

by

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When the Steel City was but twenty years old and its principal attributes were the McNab Family and the Men of Gore, the small Catholic component of the populace realized that it was severely limited in the scope of its family services. This same year, 1866, saw Cork Town, the predominately Catholic section of Hamilton, hardest hit of the local areas by a general downward swing of the economic pendulum.

With many poor and destitute people silently suffering the plight of deprivation, Christian charity and the ceaseless energy of Bishop Crinon combined to establish Hamilton's first Council of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society. The Council's first conference, held in the Bishop's residence at Saint Mary's Church, saw Father E. Heenan appointed as Chaplin and such illustrious Catholic laymen as J. Ronan, W.H. Brown and H. Best occupy the three top managerial positions on the Council's board of directors.