

Ozanam was then named President of the section Saint Jacques, which took the name of Conference of St. Etienne du Mont, with Renard as Secretary, and Picard as Treasurer.

The first act of the Conference Saint Sulpice was to fix seven o'clock on Tuesdays for the meetings, in order that the members, if they wished, might have time to go to the Conference of Saint Etienne du Mont, and to remain a few minutes with their brothers.

Thus constituted, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul got over the year 1836. The first General Meeting of the four Conferences took place on the first Sunday of Lent. During the holidays, a certain number of young people from Lyons, whose studies in Paris were finished, founded in Lyons, on the 16th August, 1836, the first provincial conference after Nimes. This latter had suffered a passing eclipse, but it was reviving. The members of the Conference of Lyons reserved for Ozanam, who was still absent, the presidency of their meeting. In the beginning of 1837, as the correspondence inserted in the Manual of the Society testifies, continued and periodical communication was established between the Conferences of Paris and those of Lyons, Nimes, Rennes, and Nantes, where other young brothers had just established new centres, and the gradual development of the Society began with the calm and prudent regularity which is the characteristic of Christian works. The development of the life and works of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is, from this period, too well remembered and stated in too many documents, to require repetition here. We shall simply thank God for having blessed the movement of Christian piety that caused our first members to assemble, and for having afterwards given their successors the grace of continuing faithful to their programme.

"To learn to know, and love each other.

"To learn to know, serve and love the poor of Jesus Christ."