

SOCIETY LOGO DESIGNER TOM BASS DIES

THE SCULPTOR WHO DESIGNED the St Vincent de Paul Society's logo has died at the age of 94.

Tom Bass was received into the Catholic faith in 1958 and joined the St Vincent de Paul Society soon after. He lived in Minto, NSW, and became a member of the Ingleburn Conference when it had only five or so members.

At the conclusion of Vatican II, much change was about to take place, including a suggestion that the Society needed a new logo to replace the image of St Vincent de Paul; an image that had been used for more than a century.

Tom, who had attended the first session of Vatican II in Rome, addressed a festival meeting at the Society in Ingleburn about his impressions. Apparently, Tom spoke with such enthusiasm and passion that the

president of the conference invited Tom to consider the logo suggestion and assist the Society in its renewal by updating its image.

He asked whether Tom would consider re-designing the logo. After some thought, Tom reflected on the words of Christ: *"A cup of water given in my name is given unto me."*

"I thought: 'That's it.' That was one of the origins of the logo. I started drawing and got ideas floating," he said.

The bottom hand of the logo represents the hand of suffering, which receives the cup. The middle hand (positioned above the hand of suffering) represents the hand of love, which offers the cup, and the first hand (above all others) is the hand of Christ, which blesses the cup.

This symbol of the hands truly reflects the work of the members, volunteers and



Tom Bass's logo design.

employees of the Society. The hand of giving symbolises our good works, the hand of suffering symbolises those we serve, and the hand of Christ is present, above all others. This acknowledges His strong presence in the relationship between ourselves and those we help. ♦