

NAME:

St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia

Read the 'Gerald Ward'(page 25) section of the St Vincent de Paul Society fact book and complete the activities that follow.

REFLECTION

The Y-chart is divided into three sections. The top section is yellow and labeled 'SOUNDS LIKE' with an ear icon. The bottom-left section is blue and labeled 'LOOKS LIKE' with an eye icon. The bottom-right section is grey and labeled 'FEELS LIKE' with a heart and fist icon.

Complete the Y-Chart above based on what you think it would have been like to live in Melbourne or a surrounding town during the 1840s and 1850s.

When you have completed the Y-Chart, consider your responses and then answer the question below.

How significant was Gerald Ward in shaping the Catholic community in Melbourne and surrounding suburbs and towns? Explain your answer.

Teacher Guide – St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia

REFLECTION

Student responses to the Y-chart will vary.

How significant was Gerald Ward in shaping the Catholic community in Melbourne and surrounding suburbs and towns? Explain your answer.

Fr Ward played a very significant role in shaping the Catholic community in Melbourne and the surrounding suburbs and towns. While in Geelong, he was responsible for finding teachers for the local schools. After being transferred to Williamstown, the poorest district in the colony, Fr Ward attended to the spiritual needs of convicts and enlarged the school. Perhaps most significantly, when he returned to Melbourne in 1854, Fr Ward formed the first St Vincent de Paul Society Conference in Australia and proposed the building of a Catholic Orphanage. Through all these things, as well as the countless other good works he undertook in his life, it is clear that Fr Ward played a very significant role in shaping the Catholic community.

