

... FREDERIC SAID

The knowledge of social well-being and of reform is to be learned, not from books, nor from the public platform, but in climbing the stairs to the poor person's garret, sitting by their bed-side, feeling the same cold that pierces them, sharing the secret of their lonely heart and troubled mind. When the conditions of the poor have been examined...it is then and then only, that we know the elements of that formidable problem, that we begin to grasp it and may hope to solve it.

Christianity is not about ideas but about deeds inspired by love

It was also agreed, somewhat surprisingly, that the primary goal of the Society was not charity, but spiritual growth of its members. While this appears to relegate love of neighbour to a secondary status, the decision is being made in the context of the debate about whether or not the Society was simply a means of giving welfare to the poor. The point behind it remains profound: without attention being given to nurturing Christian love, there will be no capacity for self-sacrificing love of one's neighbour and charity will become welfare 1



Blessed Frederick Ozanam

1- from 'Love and Politics': The Revolutionary Frederic Ozanam – John Honer, p30 2007

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