

OZANAM MEDITATION

“Help that Honours”

Scripture Reading:

“The spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and release to prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord.” (Luke 4: 16-20)

We believe that every person, from the moment of conception to natural death, has inherent dignity and a right to life consistent with that dignity.

Frederic’s Ideals and Ideas:

Frederic was painfully aware that poverty was a complex phenomenon, and early determined that the person living in poverty most often was not blameworthy for her/his condition. He wrote: “Help is humiliating when it appeals to men from below, taking heed of their material wants only, paying no attention but to those of the flesh, to the cry of hunger and cold... It humiliates when there is no reciprocity . . . Help honors when to the bread that nourishes it adds the visit that consoles . . . when it treats the poor man with respect, not only as an equal but as a superior, since he is suffering what perhaps we are incapable of suffering; since he is the messenger of God to us, sent to prove our justice and charity, and to save us by our works. Help then becomes honorable because it may become mutual.”





Our Vision:

Systemic Change calls us to “consider poverty not just as the inevitable result of circumstances, but as the product of unjust situations that can be changed, and to focus on actions that will break the cycle of poverty.” They require us to “have a holistic vision, addressing a series of basic human needs – individual and social, spiritual and physical, especially jobs, health care, housing, education, spiritual growth – with an integral approach toward prevention and sustainable development.”

Sharing:

How does your faith call you to show your respect for human life from conception to death.?

Closing Prayer:

O God, give us creativity in helping the poor meet their basic human needs. Open our minds and hearts so that we might stand at their side and assist them to change whatever unjust structures keep them poor. Enable us to be brothers and sisters to them, friends who walk with them in their struggle for fundamental human rights.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

