



OZANAM MEDITATION

“Humanity’s Cry for Freedom”

Scripture Reading:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. Your souls will find rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)


Social Justice Teaching of the Church: The Principle of Human Equality

We believe that equality of all persons comes from their essential dignity. And so, social and cultural discrimination in fundamental rights is not compatible with God’s design.

Frederic’s Ideas and Ideals:

According to the Catholic Church historian, Thomas Bokenkotter, Ozanam interpreted the French Revolution “as humanity’s cry for greater freedom, and as a key figure in the short-lived Christian democracy of 1848 he tried to move the Church to hear that cry and join the struggle.” Ozanam published a powerful public call to embrace the masses where he wrote: “In saying: ‘Let’s go to the people,’ I ask that instead of embracing the interests of an egotistical bourgeoisie, we take care of the people who have too many needs and not enough rights and who justly demand a more complete role in public affairs, guarantees for work and against misery.”

In our Rule, Part I: 7.5 we read: “The Society helps the poor and disadvantaged speak for themselves. When they cannot, the Society must speak on behalf of those who are ignored.”





Our Vision:

Systemic Change requires that we “promote engagement in political processes, through civic education of individuals and communities.” Those committed to Systemic Change “struggle to transform unjust situations and to have a positive impact, through political action, on public policy and laws.” Such persons often “have a prophetic attitude;” they “announce, denounce, and, by networking with others, engage in actions that exert pressure for bringing about change.”

Sharing:

To create systemic change we will need to be involved with political institutions and processes.

What resources does our Society have that can be used to become effective promoters of change?

What challenges will we confront?

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

