

OZANAM MEDITATION



“Regeneration of Society”

Scripture Reading:

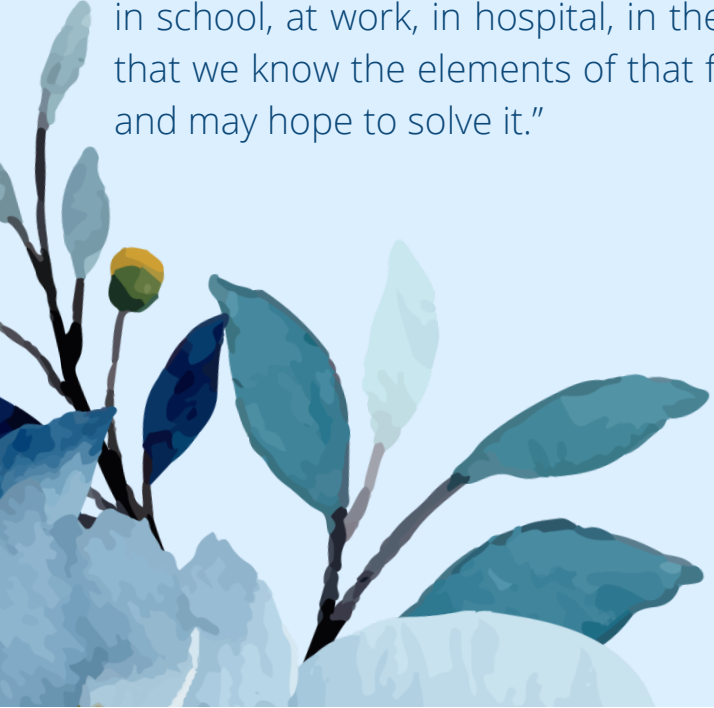
“...I will pour out my spirit upon all mankind. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions... and I will work wonders in the heavens and in the earth...” (Joel 3:1-3)

Social Justice Teaching of the Church: The Principle of Subsidiarity

The principle of subsidiarity puts a proper limit on government by insisting that no higher level of organization should perform any function that can be handled efficiently and effectively at a lower level of organization by those who are closer to the problems.

Frederic’s Ideals and Ideas:

In 1834, Ozanam wrote: “The earth has grown cold. It is for us Catholics to revive the vital heat to restore it, and it is for us to begin over again the great work of regeneration.” For Frederic, the regeneration of society was to be accomplished by forming authentic community and building just, caring relationships between the different social classes. But, he knew the only way to get a thorough understanding of the complexity of poverty was by forming true bonds of “friendship, support, and example.” Frederic wrote: “The knowledge of social well-being and reform is to be learned, not from books, nor from the public platform, but in climbing the stairs to the poor man’s garret, sitting by his bedside, feeling the same cold that pierces him, sharing the secret of his lonely heart and troubled mind. When the conditions of the poor have been examined, in school, at work, in hospital, in the city, in the country, 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.”





Our Vision:

Systemic Change involves “structural and institutional models, where communities can identify their resources and needs, make informed decisions, and exchange information and effective strategies within the community and among various communities.”

Sharing:

How does a vision of “ending poverty through systemic change” regenerate our Society?

What opportunities does your Conference or Council have to begin that effort?

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

