

OZANAM MEDITATION

“Spirituality, Friendship and Service”

Scripture Reading:

“I call you friends...It was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure, so that all you ask the Father in my name he will give you. The command I give you is this, that you love one another.” (John 15:15-17)

Our tradition proclaims that the person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society in economics and politics, in law and policy, directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community.

Frederic’s Ideas and Ideals:

The Society’s early members recognized and valued the development of Conference members through the Essential Elements of “Spirituality, Friendship and Service.” Today, the Conference remains the primary basic unit” of the Society, reflecting the original nature of the first Conference of Charity as a forum for the discussion of ideas, the exchange of information, and the reflection upon what is learned both in study and in visits to those living in poverty. Frederic wrote: “We are sons of Christian mothers, arriving one after another within alien walls where irreligion seeks to redeem its losses,... It is important then to form an association of mutual encouragement for young Catholic people where one finds friendship, support and example... So it is in our own interest first of all that our association has been established, and if we assemble under the roof of the poor, it is at least equally for them as for ourselves, so as to become progressively better friends.”



Our Vision:

Systemic change insist on the necessity to “educate, train and offer spiritual formation to all participants in the project.” It is essential to “promote learning processes in which the members of the group, especially the poor themselves, speak with one another about their successes and failures, share their insights and talents, and work toward forming leaders in the local community.”

Sharing:

We value these “Essential Elements” as Vincentians in our Conference life. How do you experience Spirituality—Friendship—Service? How can we improve?

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

