



OZANAM MEDITATION

“World-Wide Network of Charity”

Scripture Reading:

“Your love must be sincere. Detest evil and cling to what is good. Love one another with the affection of brothers and sisters. Anticipate each other in showing respect. Do not grow slack but be fervent in spirit; he whom you serve is the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient under trial, persevere in prayer. If possible, live peaceably with everyone.” (Roman 13:9-18)

Social Justice Teaching of the Church: The Principle of the Common Good

We believe that today, in an age of global interdependence, the principle of the common good points to the need for international structures that can promote the just development of persons and families across regional and national lines.

Frederic’s Ideas and Ideals:

Ozanam aspired “to encircle the world in a network of charity.” The transformation of individuals and thereby the transformation of the society in which they lived was the express intention of this network of charity and justice. There is no doubt that Frederic believed that the Catholic Church held out hope of both social and spiritual salvation; he wished for it to flourish, because it held out the promise of progress. In our Rule, Part I: 7.6 we read: “Where injustice, inequality, poverty or exclusion are due to unjust economic, political or social structure structures or to inadequate or unjust legislation, the Society should speak out clearly against the situation, always with charity, with the aim of contributing to and demanding improvements.”





Our Vision:

Systemic Change tells us that we must “construct a shared vision with diverse stakeholders: poor communities, interested individuals, donors, churches, governments, the private sector, unions, the media, international organizations and networks . . . as well as work to “promote social co-responsibility and networking, sensitizing society at all levels-local, national and international-about changing the unjust conditions that affect the lives of the poor.”

Sharing:

How does your Conference look for ways to expand the network of charity that Frederic envisioned?

What part do you play in that network to end poverty throughout the world?

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

