



PRAYER CELEBRATION FOR BLESSED ROSALIE'S FEAST DAY



"Let us support one another on the way of the Cross and let us walk in the footsteps of our Divine Master. Following in His example, let us carry [our Cross] with courage and confidence in His infinite Mercy."



In 1815, at 29 years of age, Blessed Rosalie became the superior of the daughter of charity's sisters house on the rue de l'Epee de Bois in Paris. She became known as the "Apostle of the Mouffetard District," perhaps the most miserable quarter of Paris, and she would live and work there for the next 50 years until her death in 1856.

In 1833, at the time of the founding of the "Conference of Charity" grouped around Frederic Ozanam and Emmanuel Bailly (which of course would later be named the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul), Blessed Rosalie was considered the guardian angel of the neighbourhood. It only seemed natural that the first members of the Conference of St. Vincent de Paul would turn to her. They were novices in the art of helping the poor, the working classes and the sick. For them, she was all the more efficient as a teacher by the fact that, as a disciple of Vincent de Paul, she was imbued by the spirit of her founder.

She pointed out to Blessed Frederic and his companions the families to be visited, provided them with a little money and bread coupons, and lavished them with practical and concrete advice without sermonising or overdoing the encouragement.

Blessed Rosalie's influence was a determining factor in the development of the spiritual, charitable and social vocation of the newly formed Society of which she can be considered to be its co-founder.

At the occasion of her beatification in 2003 Pope Saint John Paul II said of Blessed Rosalie that, "Her charity was inventive. (And asked) where did she draw the strength to carry out so many things? From her intense prayer life and the continuous praying of the Rosary, which she never abandoned. Her secret was simple: to see the face of Christ in every woman and man, as a true daughter of Saint Vincent de Paul."



Reading (Matthew 25: 34-40)

Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me."

Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these sisters and brothers of mine, you did it to me".

Prayers of the Faithful

You inspired Blessed Rosalie to spend her life in humble, loving service to poor and rich alike. Through her example and prayers, may we faithfully follow the path to which you have called us,

Lord hear us

Lord hear our prayer

May we, like Blessed Rosalie, always welcome our Companions with both kindness and dignity treating them as we would a member of our own family, Lord hear us.

Lord hear our prayer

For solidarity among the Vincentian Family, so that the spirit of Blessed Rosalie will live on in the bonds of friendship among us, Lord hear us

Lord hear our prayer

Closing Prayer

O God, you granted the spirit of your love to Blessed Rosalie, so that she might assist the poor and abandoned, grant, that we may always follow her example by recognising you in the poor and serving you with tireless charity.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.