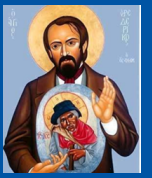


FREDERIC OZANAM



9TH SEPTEMBER

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Ozanam's Words

The knowledge of social well-being and reform is to be learnt, 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, everywhere God has placed them, it is then and then only, that we know the elements of the formidable problem, that we begin to grasp it and may hope to solve it.

Now, the strongest tie, the principle of true friendship is charity. Charity cannot exist in the hearts of many without outwardly overflowing; it is a fire which dies for want of being fed, and the food of charity is good works.

Reading Lk 10:25-37

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants* any longer, because the servant* does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Intercessions

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, you blest Frederic Ozanam with gifts of grace as a husband and father, educator and defender of the faith, and founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society. In this way he spent his life in loving service. Through his example and prayers, may we faithfully follow the path to which you have called us. Amen.

