

Frederic Ozanam

9 September

Spiritual Reflection

A Touching Place

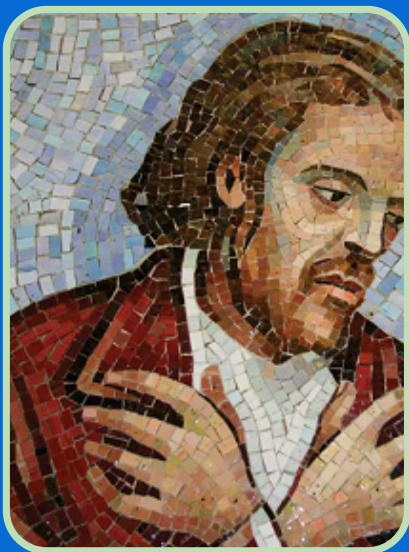
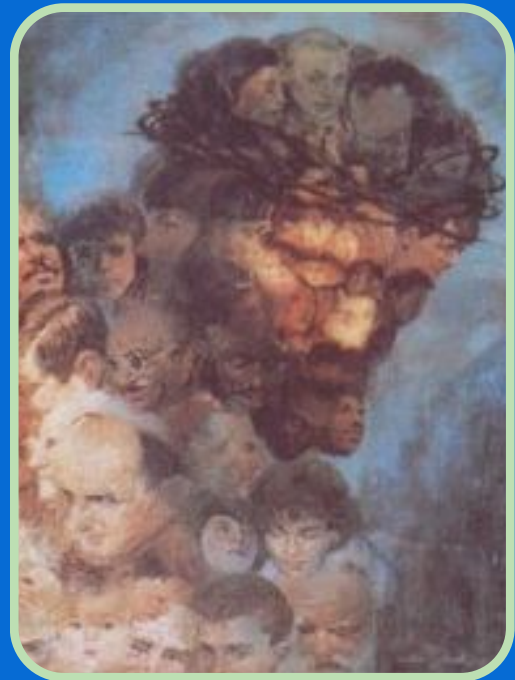
John. L. Bell

Christ's is the world in which we move,
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love,
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,
And Christ is the one who meets us here.

Feel for the people we most avoid,
Strange or bereaved or never employed;
Feel for the women, and feel for the men
who fear that their living is all in vain.

Feel for the parents who've lost their child
Feel for the women whom men have defiled,
Feel for the baby for whom there's no breast,
And feel for the weary who find no rest.

Feel for the lives by life confused,
Riddled with doubt in loving abused,
Feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin,
Which longs to be pure but fears to begin.



I believe that people who give of themselves
for the sake of others;
who demonstrate genuine concern
for those who are less fortunate,
are especially blest by God.
They are precious in God's eyes
And are protected by him.
Even as they face the hatred of their enemies
Or the conflicts and illnesses of this existence,
the Lord delivers and sustains them.

(taken from a modern adaptation of psalm 41)

Christ's is the voice which calls us to care.

Unity, simplicity, humility, and the fire of love.

Reading

Let us work to increase and multiply, to become better, more tender and stronger; for just as days follow one another, evil is seen to add to evil and misery, the disorder in society becomes more and more apparent; the social problems, the conflict between poverty and riches, between self-interest which wants to take and self-interest which wants to keep, succeeds political problems. And the confrontation between these two self interests. The poor who have the force of numbers and the rich that of silver, will be terrible if charity does not interpose, become a mediator, if Christians do not dominate with all the force of love.

135. 22nd October 1836 p 88 (Frederic Ozanam a life in Letters, Translated by Joseph Dirvin, 1986)

This charity is obligatory; it's a divine precept, which embraces several others. Each of us knows that the law and the Prophets are included in the love of God and neighbour. Everything refers back to that; everything is directed to it; and this love has such strength and is so privileged that anyone who possesses it fulfils the laws of God because they all relate to this love, and this love helps us to do whatever God asks of us: 'Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.'(Rom13:8)

(St Vincent de Paul, CCD Voll2, p213)

Intercessions

Dear God, we ask you to be with all those who are in need in our world. We ask you to soften people's heart so that they will reach out to help their brothers and sisters. Lord hear us

R. Lord hear our Prayer

We give thanks for the generous service of all the members, volunteers and staff of the Society in the Canberra Goulburn Central Council. Bless each one and strengthen them in their work. Lord hear us.

We pray for the Vincentian family throughout the world and ask that you continue to bless all its endeavours and call more people into the service of those in need. Lord hear us

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus, you who willed to become poor,
give us eyes and a heart directed toward the poor;
help us to recognize you in them; in their thirst, their hunger, their loneliness, and their misfortune.

Enkindle within our Vincentian Family unity, simplicity, humility, and the fire of love that burned in St. Vincent de Paul.

Strengthen us, so that, faithful to the practice of these virtues,
we may contemplate you and serve you in the person of the poor,
and may one day be united with you and them in your Kingdom.

Amen.

Give us eyes and a heart directed toward the poor.