

# Spiritual Reflections for the month of September 2024

Please choose a reflection, celebrating the feast days of our Founders

## Feast of Blessed Frederic Ozanam - September 9<sup>th</sup>

### Gospel: (Luke 10: 25-37)

“And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied: “*There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell in with robbers. They stripped him, beat him, and then went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road; he saw him but continued on. Likewise there was a Levite who came the same way; he saw him and went on. But a Samaritan who was journeying along came on him and was moved to pity at the sight. He approached him and dressed his wounds, pouring in oil and wine as a means to heal. He then hoisted him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, where he cared for him. The next day he took out two silver pieces and gave them to the innkeeper with the request: “Look after him, and if there is any further expense I will repay you on my way back.” Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the man who fell in with the robbers?*” The answer came, “The one who treated him with compassion.” Jesus said to him, “*Then go and do the same.*”

### Reflection:

Frederic heard the call of Jesus –to be merciful. He saw the works of mercy as calls to action. He believed that if he genuinely wanted to serve, he had to direct his works of mercy to the moral and spiritual betterment of individuals, not only to the alleviation of their physical distress.

### Vincentian Meditation:

At Frederic Ozanam’s beatification ceremonies, August 22, 1997, Pope John Paul II told the world: “Frederic observed the real situation of the poor and sought to be more and more effective in helping them in their human development. He understood that charity must lead to efforts of justice...that charity and justice go together. Frederic had the clear-sighted courage to seek a front-line social and political commitment in a troubled time in the life of his country.” (*Memorial of the Beatification of Frederic Ozanam, p.82*)

**Discussion:** How are you living the spirit of Frederic in “justice and charity”?

**Closing Prayer:** A Litany in Honour of Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Frederic Ozanam, defender of faith, **pray for us.**  
Frederic Ozanam, promoter of hope, **pray for us.**  
Frederic Ozanam, apostle of charity, **pray for us.**  
Frederic Ozanam, exemplary husband and father, **pray for us.**  
Frederic Ozanam, lover of persons who suffer, **pray for us.**  
Frederic Ozanam, advocate of the dignity of the human person, **pray for us.**  
Frederic Ozanam, servant of the truth, **pray for us.**  
Frederic Ozanam, model for Catholic teachers and professors, **pray for us.**  
Frederic Ozanam, disciple of St. Vincent De Paul, **pray for us.**  
Frederic Ozanam, faithful son of the Church, **pray for us. Amen**

## Feast of St. Vincent de Paul – September 27<sup>th</sup>

### Gospel: Matthew 5:1-9

When Jesus saw the crowds he went up on the mountainside...his disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them: *“How blest are the poor in spirit: the reign of God is theirs. Blest too are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled. Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land. Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill. Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs. Blest are the single-hearted, for they shall see God. Blest too the peacemakers; they shall be called children of God...”*

### Reflection:

For Vincent, love is always very concrete, very practical. It is love in practice. “Let us love God, my brothers and sisters,” he urges, “let us love God, but let it be with the strength of our arms and the sweat of our brows.” We are called to follow Christ as servants of the poor. Servants get their hands dirty. They labor long and hard. They engage in difficult tasks, visiting the sick and elderly in their homes, serving the hungry, helping the widow and orphan. They are on the front lines ministering to those in need. As St. Vincent says, we must first do and then teach.

### Vincentian Meditation:

St. Vincent tells us that “Love is inventive to the point of infinity.” I encourage you today to be very inventive. Because you are on the front line in laboring for persons in need, you will be among the first to know their real needs. It will not be psychologists or economists, who study the needs of the poor by examining the data they receive. You will know ahead of them because they will tell you directly. Be inventive in meeting those needs. (*Maloney, Go! On the Missionary Spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul, p.133-4*)

### Discussion:

In what ways can you become “inventive to infinity” in serving the needs of those who come to you?

### Closing Prayer:

O God, your son Jesus preached the Good News to the poor,  
**May we continue to be effective instruments of Christ to those most in need.**

O God, give us the strength and creativity we need to stand in solidarity with those who suffer,  
**May our hearts be filled with compassion and love.**

O God, you call us to be followers of St. Vincent de Paul,  
**Grant us the grace to be “inventive to infinity” in serving persons in need!**  
Amen

- The National Council of the United States, VinFormation