

## **Spiritual Reading for February 2020**

### **Subject: Blessed Rosalie Rendu**

Our reflection for the month of February is taken from this inspiration of Sister Rosalie Rendu. Perhaps more than any other person she was instrumental in helping found the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul as we know it today.

Frederic Ozanam and his friend Jules Devaux visited Sister Rosalie in one of the poorest sections of Paris. When Devaux and Ozanam asked what they could do to assist poor persons, Sister Rosalie said these words to Devaux and Ozanam understood they were meant for him as well.

"God is already giving you spiritual wisdom or you would not be sacrificing your precious free day to his poor. Because you see Christ and his poor I know you will approach each one you visit with humility, as His servant. Always remember, messieurs, that if we had to live through the hardships they've had to meet - if our childhood you been one of the constant want - perhaps we, too, would have given way to envy and hatred as, I must admit, have many of the poor in this quarter. Be kind, messieurs, and love, for love is your first gift to the poor. They will appreciate your kindness and your love more than all else you can bring them."  
From Apostle in a Top Hat, p.54

### **Discussion**

To give our free time to assist poor persons often requires sacrifice and sustaining faith. How can sister Rosalie Rendu help sustain our faith and commitment to being a Vincentians?

In our survey of what Vincentians say are our priorities, succession and recruitment were listed as the top priority. We are constantly in need of new members and members to take responsibility for leadership in the community.

What should we ask Sister Rosalie for us now to assist in encouraging people to this work of service with and for poor persons?

How can we and Sister Rosalie encourage more persons to give some of their free time and not quit the Society?

As a group have a few moments of silence and then, if you will, speak out your petition to Sister Rosalie for the whole group.

There are two excellent web sites on Sister Rosalie for further prayer, reflection, and discussion:

1. Youtube - famvinglobal Blessed Rosalie Rendu, Feb 2, 2015.
2. From Google: "Five Faces of Rosalie Rendu", Vincentian Encyclopedia- FAMVIN