

Spiritual Readings for the month of September 2022

Please choose a reading and questions for reflection.

Feast of Blessed Frederic Ozanam - September 9

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.”*

Vincentian Meditation:

“Even though Frederic Ozanam held with great distinction a professorial chair in the Sorbonne University of Paris, he still found time to climb the stairs of high tenements to visit, talk with and assist the poor families who eked out their existence in them. And so, Frederic Ozanam would remind us that the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is rooted and founded in the experience of visiting those in need in person. In person—yes, what has characterized the Society from its beginnings, and must continue to do so, is its determination to be more than an agency of relief. Its members are called to be not only dispensers of food and clothing to the poor—but dispensers, too, of the love and compassion of Christ, which has been poured into their own hearts by the Spirit of God.” (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p.148)

Discussion: How are we, in our Conference, living the spirit of Frederic?

Closing Prayer: A Litany in Honor 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, lover of poverty and those in need, **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.**
Frederic Ozanam, our intercessor at the throne of God, **pray for us. Amen**

Feast of St. Vincent de Paul – September 27

Gospel: (Luke 4:16-19)

Jesus came to Nazareth where he had been reared, and entering the synagogue on the Sabbath as he was in the habit of doing, he stood up to do the reading. When the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, he unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: *“The spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore, he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good tidings of joy to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and release to prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord.”* Rolling up the scroll he gave it back to the assistant and sat down. All in the synagogue had their eyes fixed on him. Then he began by saying to them, *“Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”*

Reflection:

“Vincent makes a clear explicit choice: ‘All aim at loving him, but they love him in different ways: Carthusians by solitude; Capuchins by poverty; others, again, by singing his praises. But we are bound to show it by leading the people to love God and their neighbor.’ The vision Vincent offers is not one of Christ as teacher, nor as healer, nor as “perfect adorer of the Father” (the vision of Berulle), nor “perfect image of the divinity” (the vision of Francis de Sales), but of *Evangelizer of the poor*. Vincent’s disciples are called to enter into the following of Christ in the very terms with which, in Luke’s gospel, Jesus opens his public ministry: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings of joy to the poor...’ In Luke’s perspective, a new age is dawning. Jesus announces the good news of the kingdom to all, but especially to the weak, the lowly, the outcasts of the world.” (Maloney, *The Way of St. Vincent de Paul*, p.22-23)

Discussion: In what ways do you bring good news to those in need?

Closing Prayer:

Gentle God, renew in us the spirit of our patron St. Vincent de Paul,
kindle in us the fire of your love.

Tender God, show us how to weep with those who weep,
Fill our hearts with compassion and love.

Creator God, you call women and men to be Vincentians,
give us eyes to see Christ in the broken and the poor. Amen

Source: Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, USA