

FEAST OF BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI
July 4

Gospel: (Matthew 11: 25-30)

Jesus exclaimed: *"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. ...Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves"*.

Reflection:

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati was born in 1901 in Italy, and his mother taught him verses from the Gospels. Pier Giorgio was deeply moved by them and developed an exceptional relationship with God. Indeed, God reveals his love to "little ones." From the time he was twelve until his death at twenty-four Pier Giorgio received Holy Communion daily. At 17, he joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and committed himself to serving the poor. Pier Giorgio said: "Jesus visits me every morning in Holy Communion. I repay him with my poor means, visiting the poor." When asked how he could stand the bad odors and dirt of the poor, he answered: "Don't forget that even if the house you visit is very dirty, there you may find Jesus." The last months of his life were filled with suffering, he contracted poliomyelitis and became paralyzed. When he died, hundreds came to view his body and there was a line of unknown faces who loved this good and generous young man who always had a good smile for everyone. Pier Giorgio was beatified by Pope John Paul II on May 20, 1990. (Manual for the Society, p. 94-95)

Vincenian Meditation:

Frederic Ozanam wrote: "Help then becomes honorable, because it may become mutual, because every man who gives a kind word, a good advice, a consolation today, may tomorrow stand himself in need of a kind word, an advice, or a consolation; because the hand that you clasp clasps yours in return; because that indigent family whom you love loves you in return, and will have largely acquitted themselves toward you when the old man, the mother, the little children shall have prayed for you." (Ramson, Praying with Frederic, p. 93)

Discussion: (Share your thoughts on the readings after a moment of silence.)

How have you found your service "honorable because it was mutual?" Give thanks for all of the "unknown faces" who pray for you.

Closing Prayer:

Inspired by Frederic and Pier Giorgio, we know that:

When we encounter the brokenness of the poor,

-Jesus will be our strength.

When the burdens of ministry overwhelm us,

-Jesus will be our strength.

When we proclaim the Gospel to the abandoned,

-Jesus will be our strength.

Amen



*In the
one Spirit
we were
all
baptized
into one
body.*

1 Cor 13:13