

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.”

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 the poor and others, 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.

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

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

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, exemplary husband and father,	pray for us.
Frederic Ozanam, lover of poverty and the poor,	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

