

## **FEAST OF BLESSED ROSALIE RENDU, D.C.**

February 7

### **Gospel: (Mark 6:53-56)**

After making the crossing, they came to land at Gennesaret and tied up there. As they were leaving the boat, people immediately recognized him. They scurried about the surrounding country and began to bring in the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. Whatever villages or towns or countryside he entered, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak; and as many as touched it were healed.

### **Reflection:**

On April 23, 1833, Frederic Ozanam's twentieth birthday, six students met in the office of their mentor Emmanuel Bailly, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was born. They resolved to respond to Christ's call by dedicating themselves to the poor after the example of St. Vincent de Paul. They asked Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity, for the names and addresses of several families in need. Sr. Rosalie was known as "The Mother of the Poor" in the Mouffetard Quarter of Paris. She taught Frederic much about the poor and how to minister to them with love and respect. The first members of the Society were determined not only to bring bread, but, above all, friendship to the poor.

(US Manual of the SSVDP, p.179)

### **Vincenian Meditation:**

"Last night I dreamed that I stood at the judgment seat of God. God received me with great severity and was about to pronounce my sentence when, suddenly, I was surrounded by an immense crowd of people carrying old boots, shoes, and hats. They presented all these things to God saying: 'She was the one who gave us all these things.' Then Jesus looked at me and said, 'Because you gave all these old clothes in my Name, I open heaven to you. Enter, for all eternity.'" (Words of Blessed Rosalie Rendu, DC )

### **Discussion: (Share your thoughts after a moment of silence)**

**What do you think God will say to you as you stand at the judgment seat?**

### **Closing Prayer:**

Holy God, we thank you for the gift to us of Bl. Rosalie Rendu,  
**-grant us the grace to be kind and loving.**

For the poor we serve,  
**-grant us the grace to bring your help and solace.**

Provident God, provide what we need to give to the poor,  
**-grant us the grace to lighten their burdens.**

For all the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul,  
**-grant us the grace to live the spirit of Bl. Rosalie Rendu.**

**Amen**

