



MEDITATION

Let us reflect on the words that Sister Rosalie Rendu spoke to Frederic Ozanam and the Founding Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

“Because you see Christ in his poor,
I know you will approach each one you visit
with humility as His servant.

Always remember, that if we had been through
the hardships they have had to meet
—if our childhood had been one of constant want—
perhaps, we too, would have given away to envy and hatred,
as I must admit have many of the poor in this quarter.

But be kind and love,
for love is your first gift to the poor.
They will appreciate your kindness and your love
more than all else you bring them.”
(Sister Rosalie Rendu, DC)



Frederic Ozanam
(1813-1853)
Founder of the Society
of St. Vincent de Paul
1833

Beatified: August 22, 1997
Feast Day: September 9



Sr. Rosalie Rendu
(1786-1856)
Daughter of Charity
of St. Vincent de Paul
1802

Beatified: November 9, 2003
Feast Day: February 7



Our Lords and Masters

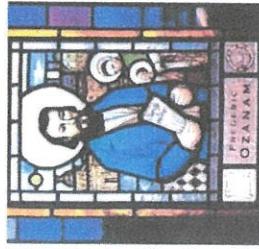


*Let us devote ourselves
with renewed love to
serve persons who are
poor, and even to seek
out those who are the
poorest and most
abandoned: let us
acknowledge before
God that they are our
lords and masters and
that we are unworthy
of rendering them our
little services.*

St. Vincent de Paul (Vol. XI, Con., 164)

"We should kneel at the feet of the poor and, with the Apostle, say to them: "You are our masters, we shall be your servants; you are the visible image of God whom we do not see, but whom we love in loving you."

Frederic Ozanam, Letter to Louis Janmot
Lyon, Nov. 13, 1836



What does this mean for us