

Celebrating Ozanam Sunday

April 28, 2013

This year the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is celebrating the 200th birthday (April 23rd) of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, our founder. All across Cincinnati, Vincentians are encouraged to gather in their conferences to observe Ozanam Sunday on April 28th.

Make it a day to celebrate being a Vincentian and to share the spirit with your parish!

- **Attend Mass at your parish together as a conference.**
 - Ask your pastor if he would be willing to recognize your conference at the beginning of Mass or during announcements. This is a great opportunity for parishioners to see the faces of the Vincentians in their church.
 - Consider having some way to share the Vincentian spirit with parishioners: making a brief announcement, having information available after Mass, etc.

- **Celebrate with a post-Mass activity:**
 - During or after Mass, consider renewing your commitment to the Society. Attached is an outline for a short ceremony that can be used in whole or part. Or...
 - Gather for brunch at a local restaurant or someone's home. Or...
 - Have a mini-retreat, a time of shared prayer for the conference. Contact Steve Calme (513-562-8841 x767) for resources that can be used. Or...
 - Find a fun social activity, maybe something as simple as watching the movie *Monsieur Vincent* together (available at Hamilton County libraries). Or...
 - Anything else that your conference would enjoy!

Why "Ozanam Sunday"? Frederic Ozanam was born on April 23, 1813 in Milan, Italy. On April 23, 1833 Frederic and six companions founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Also, St. Vincent de Paul was born on April 24, 1581. To commemorate these events, every year the Society in the United States celebrates the last Sunday of April as Ozanam Sunday.



ANNUAL COMMITMENT CEREMONY **(Optional for Ozanam Sunday)**

Opening Song: (Begin with an appropriate song)

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,
All: Come and breathe your life anew.

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,
All: Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here, and
enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.

Spiritual Advisor: Let us pray together the Mission Statement of the Society of St.
Vincent de Paul:

(Alternate sides)

- **Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.**
- **As a reflection of the whole family of God, Members, who are known as Vincentians, are drawn from every ethnic and cultural background, age group and economic level. Vincentians are united in an international society of charity by their spirit of poverty, humility and sharing, which is nourished by prayer and reflection, mutually supportive gatherings and adherence to a basic Rule.**

(Together)

- **Organized locally Vincentians witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making no distinction in those served because, in them, VINCENTIANS SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST.**

President: In our Mission Statement we find that we are inspired by Gospel values to be of service to the needy and the poor, that we grow spiritually by this service, and that we are united to all Vincentians throughout the world as we embrace works of justice and charity.

Once a year, we should take time to reflect on what we are about and to commit ourselves once again to faithfulness in carrying out our mission as Vincentians. At the Easter Vigil we renewed our baptismal vows. Through baptism we became disciples of Jesus, committed to spread his Word and his Light to all.

This commitment we make today is very much connected with those vows. Our work in the Society is one of the ways we give expression to our baptismal call to bring the love of Christ to others and to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to those who are poor and suffering. Let us ask our Gracious God to keep our hearts on fire with enthusiasm, our spirits determined with perseverance and our bodies strengthened with energy to do God's will in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you commit yourself to spiritual growth, so that you may bear witness to the love of God and to see the face of Christ in the faces of those you serve?

ALL: I Do.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you commit yourself to promote a community of faith and friendship among all members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

ALL: I Do.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you commit yourself to give service to the poor in a spirit of justice and charity?

ALL: I Do.

Spiritual Advisor: BLESSING (Sprinkling with Holy Water)

May the flame of God's love light your way and lead you to grow in Vincentian spirituality and holiness.

ALL: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: May the passionate fire of God's love increase your friendship with each other, healing divisions and conflicts.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: May the Spirit strengthen you in the ways of justice and charity, and may you bring hope and healing into the hearts of all those who are poor and suffering.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: May your hands and hearts be nourished for the work that lies ahead, that you may be compassionate to human need, tender and strong in your care and faithful to the commitment of service you renew today.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: Let us pray:

(Alternate sides)

- Saint Vincent de Paul, apostle of the charity of Christ, give us the grace of loving God through the work of our hands and the sweat of our brow. Help us to abandon ourselves to God's Providence, faithfully discovering God's action in all the events of our lives.
- Blessed Frederic Ozanam, sustain in us our desire to discern and accomplish the will of God. Obtain for us a tender heart filled with compassion for the distress and suffering of others, especially the most helpless in this world.

(Together)

- Holy Spirit, accompany us in our service towards humankind and intercede for us before the Son of God so that in our work, our families, our neighborhoods, our parishes and our communities, we become impassioned by their Gospel of love. Amen

Closing Song: (End with an appropriate song)