

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, Twenty Second Week in Ordinary Time

Consider making forbearance an important part of your character...letting forbearance be your virtue.

I Corinthians 4:6-15

Paul taught the Corinthians that humility is the root of all virtues and pride the root of all sin. He says, in this excerpt, “we are fools for Christ’s account.... but in Christ we are wise”. The source of humility is that we are all children of God; we have one and the same Father and only one father. We may be more in the eyes of some and less in the eyes of others. But we come from the same father and we go to the same Father.

Psalm 145

**The Lord is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.**

**The Lord is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth.**

Luke 6:1-5

The story of how the disciples plucked ears of corn on the Sabbath Day. The scribes and the Pharisees became more suspicious of a teacher who allowed his disciples to violate the Sabbath law. This kind of thing could not be allowed to spread unchecked.

Jesus used this occasion to teach: Man is not at the service of the law. The law is at the service of man.

Jesus taught them that the claim of human need must take precedence over all other claims. The claims of worship, the claims of ritual, and the claims of liturgy are important, but prior to any of them is the claim of human need. Jesus insisted that the greatest ritual service is the service that meets urgent human need.

Jesus called his disciples to go beyond ritual services, church services and synagogue services to the service of human need. In fact, the Gospels tell of only one synagogue service that Jesus conducted. But we have an abundance of incidence of Jesus at the service of human need. Christian service is involvement in the demands and problems and tragedies of the human situation.

Saint of the day, September 7 - Bl. Frédéric Ozanam and 29 other saints are remembered this day

Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam was born on April 23, 1813 in Milan, Italy. He was a French literary scholar, lawyer, journalist and equal rights advocate. Frédéric was the fifth of Jean and Marie Ozanam's 14 children, one of only three to reach adulthood. As a teenager he began having doubts about his religion. Reading and prayer did not seem to help, but long walking discussions with Father Noirot of the Lyons College clarified matters a great deal.

A discussion club which Frédéric organized sparked the turning point in his life. In this club, Catholics, atheists, and agnostics debated the issues of the day. Once, after Frédéric spoke about Christianity's role in civilization, a club member said: "Let us be frank, Mr. Ozanam; let us also be very particular. What do you do besides talk to prove the faith you claim is in you?"

Frédéric was stung by the question. He soon decided that his words needed a grounding in action. He and a friend began visiting Paris tenements and offering assistance as best as they could. Soon a group dedicated to helping individuals in need under the patronage of Saint Vincent de Paul formed around Frédéric.

He founded with fellow students the Conference of Charity, later known as the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. His experiences of service to the poor, reflected on and informed by the Vincentian Spirituality that he and his friends followed, transformed Frédéric and led him to anticipate many of the elements of modern Catholic Social Teaching. A husband and father, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, offers an example of living with integrity and charity.

In 1852, poor health forced Frédéric to return to Italy with his wife and daughter. He died on September 8, 1853. Frédéric was beatified in 1997.

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