

OZANAM SUNDAY



ANNUAL COMMITMENT CEREMONY

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

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: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:
"Vincentians serve the poor cheerfully, listening to them and respecting their wishes, helping them to feel and recover their own dignity, for we are all created in God's image. In the poor, they see the suffering Christ." (Rule 1.8)

Indeed, the vision of Blessed Frederic Ozanam was:

"To establish a network of charity and social justice to circle the world."

And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: As Vincentians we are:
A network of friends,
inspired by Gospel values,
growing in holiness
and building a more just world
through personal relationships with
and service to people in need.

President: In our Rule and 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)