



Vincentine Words to Live By.....

Blessed Frederic Ozanam Quotes

"Let us do without hesitation whatever good lies at our hands".

"Yours must be a work of love, of kindness, you must give your time, your talents, yourselves".

"We must do what is agreeable to God. We must do what Our Lord Jesus Christ did when preaching the Gospel. Let us go to the poor Let us learn of Him".

"Knowledge of the poor and needy is not gained by pouring over books or in discussions with politicians, but by visiting the slums where they live, sitting by the bedside of the dying, feeling the cold they feel and learning from their lips the causes of their woes".

"Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveller, who has been attacked. But, it is justice's role to prevent the attacks".

"Help honours when to the bread that nourishes it adds the visit that consoles, the advice that enlightens, the friendly shake of the hand

that lifts up the sinking courage; when it treats the poor man with respect not only as an equal but as a superior, since he is suffering what perhaps we are incapable of suffering; since he is the messenger of God to us, sent to prove our justice and our charity; and to save us by our works”.

“.....the poor we see with the eyes of flesh; they are there and we can put finger and hand in their wounds and the scars of the crown of thorns are visible on their foreheads; and at this point incredulity no longer has place and we should fall at their feet and say with the Apostle, Tu est Dominus et Deus meus (*You are my Lord and my God!*). You are our masters, and we will be your servants. You are for us the sacred images of that God whom we do not see, and not knowing how to love Him otherwise shall we not love Him in your person”?

“The problem that divides men and women in our day is whether society will be only a great exploitation to the profit of the strongest or a consecration of each individual for the good of all and especially for the protection of the weak. There are a great many men and women who have too much and who wish to have more; there are a great many others who do not have enough, who have nothing, and who are willing to take if someone gives to them. Between these two classes of men, a confrontation is coming, and this menacing confrontation will be terrible; on the one side, the power of gold, on the other the power of despair”.

“We must cast ourselves between these two enemy armies, if not to prevent, at least to deaden the shock. And our youth and our mediocrity does not make our role of mediators easier than our title of Christian makes us responsible. In this, there is the possible usefulness of our Society of St. Vincent de Paul”.

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