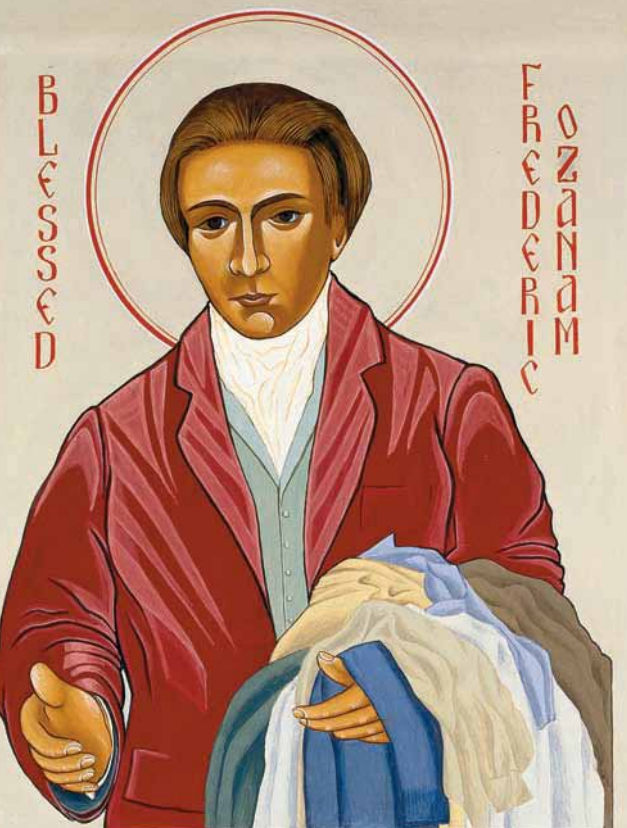


RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Frederic Ozanam, Fearghal O'Farrell

Focus on Faith

Blessed Frederic Ozanam Follows Jesus

Blessed Frederic Ozanam (1813–1853) was a Catholic layman in France. In 1832 an epidemic of cholera swept through Paris, killing up to 1,200 people each day. As Frederic walked through the poorer suburbs on his way to the university, he was deeply moved at the hopeless state of families who had lost fathers and mothers. He and six friends decided to see what they could do. They began by giving a widow the remainder of their winter wood supply. Frederic and his friends continued their work. Eventually they formed an association and called it The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Today the society they began has some 55,000 members in the United States and 1,000,000 worldwide in 130 countries.

Our Catholic Heritage

An example of a program dedicated to helping the poor and vulnerable is sponsored by the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil. This program, called Pastoral da Criança, or Pastoral of the Child, helps prevent infant deaths and provides nutrition information, medical care, and education to poor families in Brazil. Many School Sisters of Notre Dame are involved in this program, which serves more than a million families a month. It was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2001.



Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Inquire about the needs of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul nearest your home. The society may even be active in your parish. Discuss how your family can aid the poor by responding to the society's requests.

Focus on Prayer

Your child has reflected on the beauty of God's creation and the dignity of the human beings to whom God has



entrusted its care (Psalm 8:6–10). You may want to read this and other psalms with your child. Remind your child that, by respecting nature and all people, he or she is expressing thanks to God for his creation.

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Spirituality in Action

If you are part of a recycling program, involve your family. Show everyone where to put newspapers, jars, and cans. Explain to your child how he or she can recycle in other ways, such as by reusing bags or wearing hand-me-downs.

