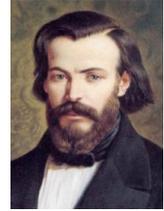




**Vincentian Family Executive Committee  
(VFEC)  
Annual Meeting  
7-11 November 2022 / Rome, Italy**



**Morning Prayer with Blessed Ozanam - November 8, 2022**

**Phrase 1**

**"Christianity is the only thing capable of realizing the ideal of fraternity, without sacrificing freedom."**

**(Antonio-Federico Ozanam)**

**Renato:** Ozanam was very clear that only Christianity would be able to offer humanity a path of charity, holiness and spirituality, guaranteeing the freedom of every child of God. Political and economic models end up generating distortions and do not always bring well-being to the population. The world is living in dark times, and in several places there is a strong political, religious and thought persecution. There are also thousands of people who have been forced to leave their countries in search of a better future in another part of the world. The Vincentian response must be fraternal acceptance and effective listening to those in need. As Vincentians, how can we bring Christ's message to all who suffer in the face of the enormous challenges that present themselves today?

Spanish	English	Français
<b>All:</b> Señor, ¡que tengamos la fuerza, el valor y la voluntad de transformar la realidad que nos rodea, dando un testimonio fraterno de amor afectivo y efectivo hacia nuestros hermanos necesitados!	<b>ALL:</b> Lord, may we have the strength, the courage, and the will to transform the reality around us, giving fraternal witness of affective and effective love, before our brothers and sisters in need!	<b>Tous :</b> Seigneur, que nous ayons la force, le courage et la volonté de transformer la réalité qui nous entoure, en donnant un témoignage fraternel d'amour affectif et efficace envers nos frères et sœurs dans le besoin!

**Sentence 2**

**"I've never been able to live without friends."**

**(Antonio-Federico Ozanam)**

**Ricardo:** Ozanam taught us that as we seek personal sanctification through service to the poor and in defense of social justice, we need to strengthen our Vincentian institutions and personal relationships. If there is no tolerance, empathy, harmony and above all friendship between us, the members of this beautiful Vincentian Family, our message runs the risk of moving away from the core of the charism that unites us. Strengthening the bonds of friendship between us, and between us and those in need, is fundamental to enhance Vincentian action. Have we done it? Is there true friendship among our members, or is vanity and the pursuit of "human power" preventing God's grace from being manifested?

Spanish	English	Français
<b>ALL:</b> ¡Señor, danos la humildad tan predicada por Vicente, para que podamos suplir nuestro espíritu y nuestro corazón, y así transformar nuestros corazones y los del mundo	<b>ALL:</b> Lord, give us the humility so preached by Vincent, so that we can fill our spirit and our heart, and thus transform our hearts and those of the whole world!	<b>TOUS :</b> Seigneur, donne-nous l'humilité tant prêchée par Vincent, afin que nous puissions remplir notre esprit et notre cœur, et ainsi transformer nos cœurs et ceux du monde entier !

entero!		
---------	--	--

**Sentence 3**

**"Charity must never look back, but always forward, because the number of its past benefits is always too small and the present and future miseries it must alleviate are endless."**

**(Antonio-Federico Ozanam)**

**Renato:** Ozanam was visionary in warning us of the various forms of poverty and that together we can address the causes—not just the consequences—of human misery. He also always made it clear that we Vincentians have the responsibility and commitment, as baptized, to bring the message of Our Lord Jesus Christ, through evangelization, to all those who suffer, because that too is charity. It is not only material poverty that destroys families, but above all spiritual and moral poverty. Our mission is to banish all kinds of poverty: material, spiritual and moral. Our task is effective when the poor cease to be poor. Are the members of our Vincentian branches capable of perceiving this situation and identifying the poverty that surrounds us? Or are we still used to that old stereotype of the poor?

Spanish	English	Français
<b>All:</b> Señor, danos la sabiduría de comprender que la presencia de los pobres entre nosotros es una oportunidad para nuestra propia salvación, mediante la práctica de las virtudes vicentinas.	<b>ALL:</b> Lord, give us the wisdom to understand that the presence of the poor among us is an opportunity for our own salvation, through the practice of the Vincentian virtues.	<b>Tous :</b> Seigneur, donne-nous la sagesse de comprendre que la présence des pauvres parmi nous est une opportunité pour notre propre salut par la pratique des vertus vinctiennes.

**Sentence 4**

**"The poor are our masters, and we will be their servants. And not knowing how to love God in any other way, we will love Him in his people."**

**(Antonio-Federico Ozanam)**

**Ricardo:** Ozanam was a cultured man, with influential friends, surrounded by people of high social and academic level; But at the same time he was an extremely humble person, close to the poor and the sick, dedicated to family and religion. The poor can be the door of Paradise, if we are able to understand what God wants for us in this service of charity. It is useless to say that we are Vincentians if we do not love our neighbor as Vincent taught us. Do we really put the poor at the head of our intentions and actions, or do we just make nice speeches that are not backed by reality?

Spanish	English	Français
<b>All:</b> Señor, que nuestro servicio como líderes vicentinos se base en dos premisas fundamentales: la humildad, que nos hace grandes, y la caridad, que transforma el mundo.	<b>ALL:</b> Lord, may our service as Vincentian leaders be based on two fundamental premises: the humility, that makes us great, and the charity, that transforms the world!	<b>TOUS :</b> Seigneur, que notre service en tant que leaders vinctiens soit basé sur deux prémisses fondamentales : l'humilité, qui nous rend grands, et la charité, qui transforme le monde!

**Sentence 5**

**"It is time to unite words with deeds and to demonstrate with deeds the vitality of our faith."**

**(Antonio-Federico Ozanam)**

**Renato:** Ozanam was well aware of the role the Church had to play in achieving the spiritual benefits we so pursue. But, at the same time, he also knew that practical Christian action would be the missing example to convince people. The practice of works of mercy is fundamental to bearing witness to Christ and saving people. Along with the defense of the faith, it is essential that our

works be seen as a magnification of the Lord in the person of the poor. Have we been able to unite word and deed? Does our behavior, attitudes and planning take this two-pronged approach into account? When they see us, do they see the face of Christ?

Spanish	English	Français
<p><b>ALL:</b> Señor, sabemos que nuestra responsabilidad, como vicentinos, es inmensa, dados los desafíos del mundo moderno. Ayúdanos en este camino para que podamos ser verdaderos discípulos de la caridad.</p>	<p><b>ALL:</b> Lord, we know that our responsibility, as Vincentians, is immense, given the challenges of the modern world. Help us in this journey so that we can be true disciples of charity.</p>	<p><b>TOUS :</b> Seigneur, nous savons que notre responsabilité en tant que Vincentiens est immense, étant donné les défis du monde moderne. Aidez-nous sur ce chemin afin que nous puissions être de véritables disciples de la charité.</p>



**Organization: International General Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul**