

# Vinspiration

## Reflection Outline - Blessed Frederic Ozanam

### 1. Welcome...

#### **Welcome to Vinspiration!**

Thank you for choosing to take time to share in Vinspiration - our Vincentian story. Here you will have the opportunity to explore and share our Vincentian heritage as well as add to our Vincentian story.

This reflection may take the form of a small group or you may like to reflect at your own pace.

### 2. Preparation

To prepare for this Vinspiration on Blessed Frederic Ozanam you will need:

- Vinspiration handout - Blessed Frederic Ozanam.
- Artwork of Blessed Frederic for display.
- There are a number of videos and DVD's about the life of Blessed Frederic Ozanam available from the St Vincent de Paul Society. Contact your local Conference for information.
- Textas, cardboard, OR whiteboard and markers.
- Print the questions at the end of 'part 3 - Our Inspiration' and 'part 4 - In Our World Today' of this reflection outline. You can make one copy for all participants or have them as large questions in the middle of the room.
- You may choose to enlarge the quotes that appear on the Vinspiration handout or any extra quotes from Blessed Frederic Ozanam that you would like to share with the group.
- Candle and material to prepare a sacred centrepiece.
- Appropriate quiet music and music player.
- You might like to invite a speaker from the St Vincent de Paul Society who can share stories about their works of service to those in need.

Whether you are in a small group or as an individual, enjoy this time in a relaxed atmosphere of prayer and sharing with others and especially with God.

When you are ready to begin, welcome everyone to this Vinspiration gathering where the Vincentian story will continue to be told.

Light a candle in the middle of your space to remember that Christ our Light is in everything we do. *"Where two or three gather in my name, there I am in the midst of them"* (Matt 18:20).

### 3. Our Inspiration...

Our inspiration today is Blessed Frederic Ozanam. Let us take the time to reflect on the life of Blessed Frederic Ozanam and listen to what he has to share with us for our lives today.

Begin your time together watching a short movie about Blessed Frederic Ozanam. An example is, "No Time Like Now" created by the St Vincent de Paul Society Australia.

Take some time to read through the following material

- Vinspiration - Blessed Frederic Ozanam

This can be done individually or read aloud amongst the group.

Use these materials to reflect on the person that was Frederic Ozanam.

Spend some time reflecting and discussing lines or quotes that stood out for you and what they might mean.

For small groups, enlarge these quotes or additional words from Blessed Frederic and place them in the middle of the group. Ask members to choose one that means something to them and share why this is so.

Questions for Reflection on St Justin de Jacobis:

- What qualities of Blessed Frederic Ozanam have made an impact on you?
- What stands out about Frederic for you?

If your group is large people may move into smaller groups or in pairs to share their answers and comments.

Then, if appropriate, share this with the larger group.

# Blessed Frederic Ozanam

## 4. In Our World Today...

This next part of our reflection will focus on Blessed Frederic Ozanam and his message for us in our world today - the 21st Century.

On your own or in your group, take time to go through some or all of the questions in "Something to think about" in the Vinspiration handout.

Ask members to respond to a question that stands out for them.

Further discussion can surround the following questions. Print these questions and have them available for members.

- How does this quality of Frederic or the message that I hear, challenge me today?
- What is this challenge calling me to change in my life?
- How is Frederic's world different to our world today ... or is it different at all? How does it 'fit' into our world today?
- What is the message that Frederic has for me?
- With relation to the World Youth Day 2008 theme, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses." (Acts 1:8) - how does Frederic's example reflect this passage?

Remember that this is a relaxed and prayerful atmosphere. Ensure members feel comfortable in their sharing.

All questions don't have to be asked or answered.

Let the Holy Spirit guide the conversation.

As the conversation draws to a natural close or as time comes to a conclusion let us end with prayer.

## 5. Let us Pray...

As we bring our time together to a close, let us take the time to offer all that we have reflected on and discussed to God.

You may choose to dim the lights at this time and have quiet music playing in the background.

Focus on the candle that continues to burn, remembering that Christ is our Light. As we explore and grow in our Vincentian story we our growing in our own story of faith - our story with God.

As we focus on the candle, invite members to offer a prayer of thanks, of intercession, of whatever is in their hearts.

Once members have shared, we offer all our prayers spoken and unspoken to God.

Let us conclude with prayer. These words are available on the Vinspiration handout - Let us Pray ...

*O God, you favoured Frederic Ozanam with gifts of grace as husband and father, educator, defender of the faith, as founder of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Through his example and prayers may we too be faithful in following the path in which you have called us.*

*We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

*Thank you for being a part of Vinspiration.*

