

Ozanam and Friendship

April 23

Amelie Ozanam said of her husband, Frederic, "He made a profession of affect ions." Frederic himself would confirm this, "I have never been able to overlook my friends, but their memory for me is infinitely more precious because revolutions separate so many who used to be beloved." Frederic seemed to be a man who had a great ability to cultivate friends in his life. This began in his early school days and followed with him wherever else he went. For him, friends were an important part of ourselves, friends were people we could trust and share the important things in our lives and not just the superfluous. For him, friends were indispensable. Frederic not only wanted or have good friends to support him in his life but he wanted to be a good friend to those who shared their lives with him.

One of the great areas in which he wished to share with his friends was the area of his faith. Frederic Ozanam would not be one to say we can never talk about politics or religion. For him, true friends would talk about both. The reason is that this discussion could lead to the truth. Truth was always an important area of concern for Ozanam and sharing with friends, their thoughts and ideas, their journey of faith would be a way for good friends to act with each other. Ozanam said, "I feel better when I have poured out my heart into the heart of a friend who is a better person than I am. Without realizing it , in this way, you are doing me some good; and these lines that you will read in a few days will have strengthened my heart and will energize me for some time."

Questions

1. When was the last time that I thanked God in prayer for family and friends? What can I do , besides prayer, to show concretely how much I appreciate them?
2. Do I really have a friend with whom I can share my deepest thoughts, my hopes, and struggles? How can I develop such a relationship if I do not already have one?

Tomorrow's writing will be, The Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Fr. Marty