

Ozanam and Gobelin Weavers

May 1, 2020

Frederic Ozanam believed in our complete abandonment to confidence in God. The following words come from a talk that he gave to young workers.

“We are responsible for making our own destiny here below, but we do not know exactly what it is yet, something like the Gobelin Weavers working on their tapestry. They simply follow the drawing of an unknown artist, trying to match on the reverse side of the frame the threads of different colors as he indicated but without seeing the result of their work. It is only later, when the work is done that they can look at these flowers, these paintings, these persons, these artistic marvels that sprung from their hands for the enchantment of royal residences. In the same way, my friends, let us work on this earth with docility, submitting ourselves to the will of God, without seeing what we do. But he, the divine artist, sees it and knows. And when our task is completed, he will have us see the work of our life of labor and pain, and we will be in ecstasy and bless him for what he deigned to accept our weak endeavors, to place them in his eternal dwellings.”

Even if he worried about himself, Ozanam trusted in the Providence of God. Frederic’s spirituality is not disembodied, directed only toward prayer, meditation and adoration. It was always directed toward the search to find the face of God in the face of the other, in his worries, his problems, his sorrows, and his joys, to accept these and be able to deal with them.

Questions

1. What are the talents I have that could accomplish the most good in the Society in which I live? Am I letting them languish, or do I take these gifts from the Lord seriously?
2. How nervous am I about the future of my own life and labors? Where do I perceive the hand of God in all of this?

Tomorrow’s writing will be, Giving God our Lives.

Fr. Marty