



**Ozanam in the Vincentian Tradition:
A Man of Ideas, A Man of Action**

Ozanam devoted his life both

- to the service of "Eternal Truth" in the realm of **ideas** and
- to the service of the poor in the realm of **action**

In fact, we know from his writings that Ozanam repeatedly linked action to theory.

In his words:

“...religious ideas can have no value if they have not a practical and positive value.”

Ainslie Coates, trans., *Letters of Frederic Ozanam*.
New York: Benziger, 1886, p. 97.

In his words:

"Let's not relegate our beliefs to the domain of speculation and theory; let's take them seriously, and let our life be the continual expression of them."

Ainslie Coates, trans., *Letters of Frederic Ozanam*.
New York: Benziger, 1886, pp. 63-67.

In his words:

“...I have found that Christianity had been for me, until now, a sphere of ideas, a sphere of worship, but not sufficiently a sphere of morality, of intentions, of actions.”

In his words:

“Religion serves less to think than to act; and if it teaches to live, it is in order to teach to die ...The value of Christianity is in this, and not in the attraction which its dogmas may present to men of imagination and of mind.”

Ainslie Coates, trans., *Letters of Frederic Ozanam*.
New York: Benziger, 1886, pp. 96-98.

Source:

Frédéric Ozanam - A Layman for Now by Shaun McCarty, S.T.

http://famvin.org/wiki/Frédéric_Ozanam_-_A_Layman_for_Now_-_Shaun_McCarty,_S.T.