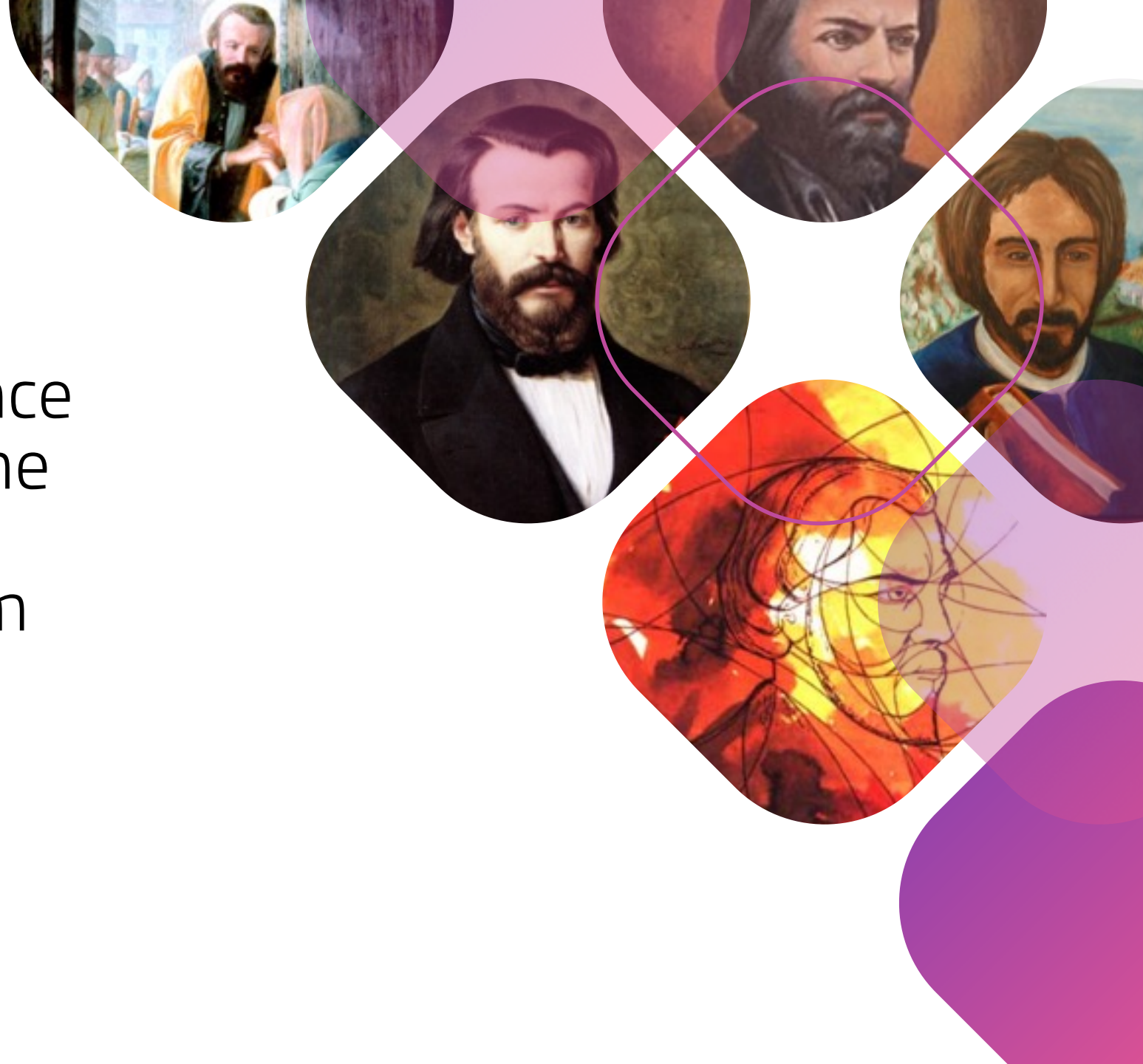


Fighting ignorance and misery, in the footsteps of Frédéric Ozanam

from a homily of André Vingt-Trois, Cardinal
Archbishop of Paris





THE WAY OF THE WORLD

As a young graduate, Frédéric Ozanam took up his post and its responsibilities [it is said that he worked in the legal profession in order to support his mother]



FRÉDÉRIC'S WAY

but subsequently he did not hesitate to quit the security of his profession to follow a career as a researcher.



THE WAY OF THE WORLD

One might work as a modern researcher and a teacher, "**despite** being a believer"

FRÉDÉRIC'S WAY

As a teacher at the Sorbonne, he devoted himself to research and teaching "**because** of being a believer".



THE WAY OF THE WORLD

Emergence of esoteric religions as
substitutes for Christianity

FRÉDÉRIC'S WAY

His great work of apologetics, showing
that Christianity has been a cause of
great progress in the development of
societies



THE WAY OF THE WORLD

Emergence of intellectual attacks on Christianity, and the first illusory beliefs in science as replacing God

FRÉDÉRIC'S WAY

He took part in the major educational movement which formed around a number of Christian intellectuals and university teachers



THE WAY OF THE WORLD

Give up the struggle, go with the flow,
change with the current culture



FRÉDÉRIC'S WAY

Resist attacks, and become a brave
witness to the truth



THE WAY OF THE WORLD

"Your Christianity is dead... where are the works that demonstrate your faith and could make us respect and accept it?"

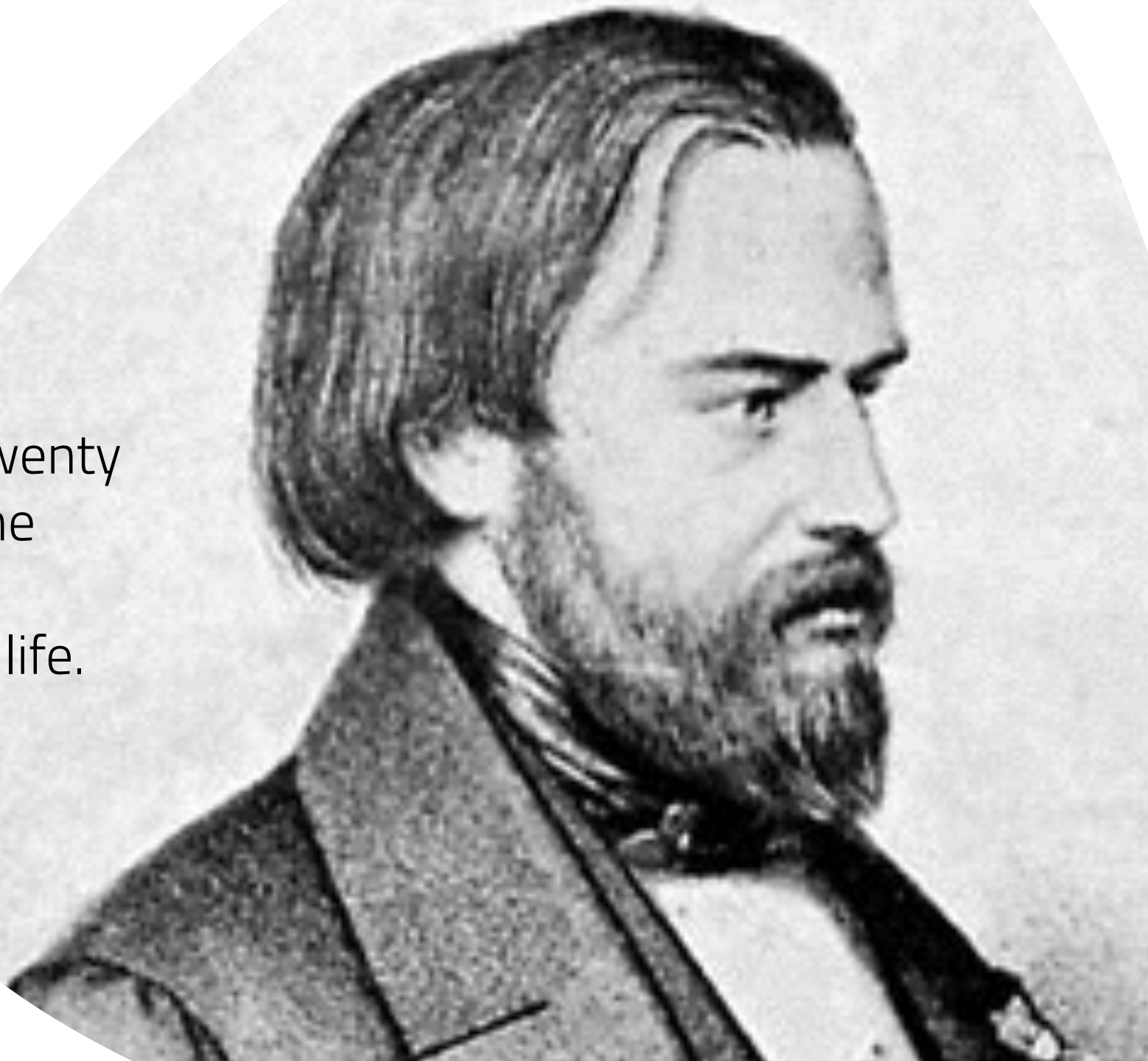


FRÉDÉRIC'S WAY

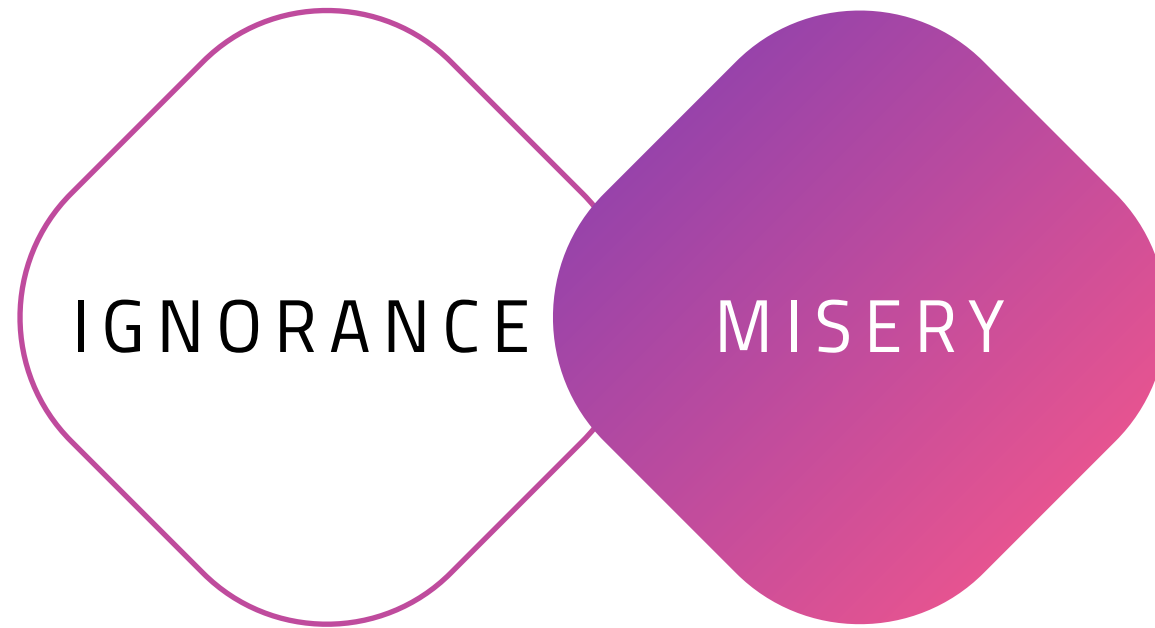
He took this question as a call from God, and very quickly, with a small group of friends, began visiting the poor, taking Saint Vincent de Paul as their patron.

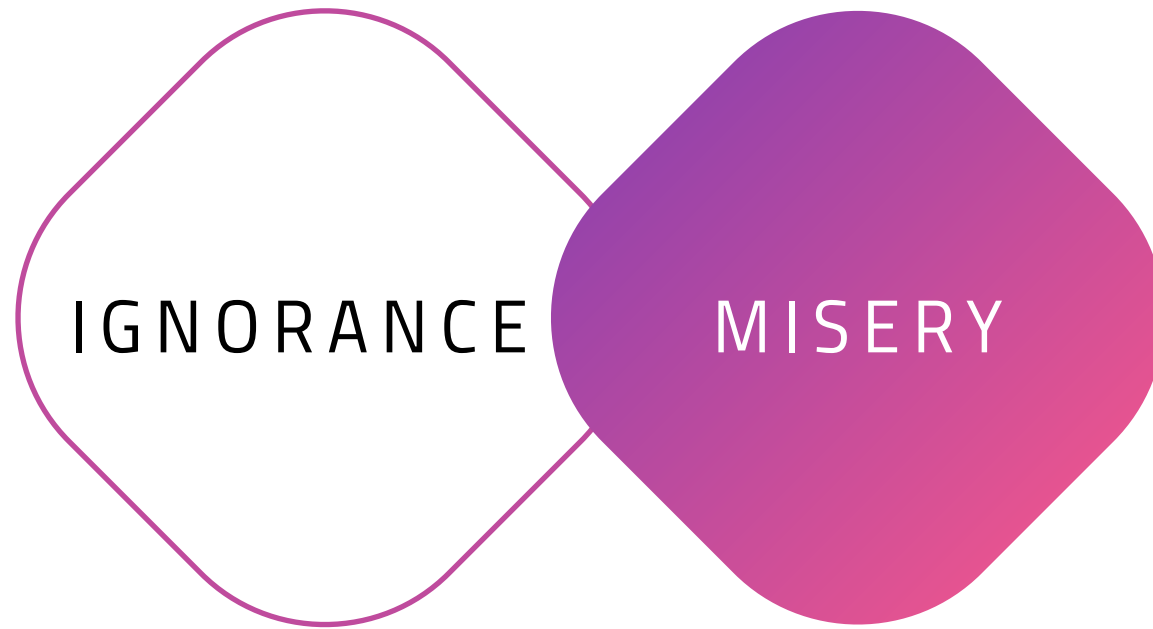
FRÉDÉRIC OZANAM

Frédéric was then twenty years old. Little did he know, he was then halfway through his life.



Two things Frédéric teaches us to fight:





In many ways, our society shares and continues the process of dechristianization in France during the 19th century. It too can be ignorant of Christianity and the contribution it has made to the search for the common good.

Today's society also juxtaposes tremendous economic and technical success with ever more glaring pockets of misery.



Now as then, we are called to make new
evangelizing efforts, built on the twin pillars of

the proclamation of the truth

and the service of the poor



We know that our society is no longer the same as that of the 19th century. Public resources for social benefits and poverty relief are much better, they deal very well with situations that were ignored 150 years ago.



But despite this, as we know there are people on the margins of society who cannot access this communal protection, because they don't qualify for it, they don't know how to ask for it, or they don't think they can receive it. In any case, they are there, on the roadside in our towns as a sign that, despite our prosperity, misery hasn't been eradicated.



We have had remarkable success with universal education which has become widespread since the 19th century.

Yet in the 21st century we know that there are ever-growing numbers of people who are illiterate, unable to read and write. Education has developed; why not for everyone?



photo: facebook/Daughters of Charity IPS

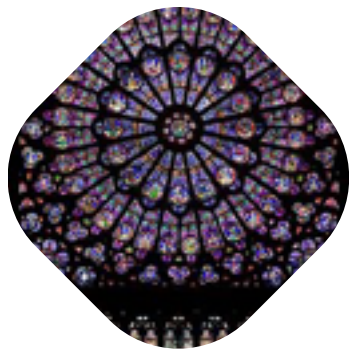


photo: Vincentian Lay Missionaries USA

Now as then, those with the best education, professional skills and personal development are called to share their own gifts and talents. Today we have to share our wealth, proclaim Christ, the only hope of the world; we have to give our personal service to the poor, not just from our surplus, but **by the gift of ourselves in a fraternal relationship with the most humble.**



May our holy forebears:
Vincent de Paul,
Louise de Marillac,
Rosalie Rendu and
Frédéric Ozanam
be models for us,
and intercede for us.
Amen.



from a homily of André Vingt-Trois,
Cardinal Archbishop of Paris

*Solemn Mass for the occasion of the bicentenary of the
birth of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, Notre-Dame Cathedral*