



# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE US SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

## WHAT GOOD HAVE I DONE?

I often gaze at the western sky  
At the rays of the setting sun,  
And, I think that now as the day is o'er  
What is the good I have done?

What have I done to help a soul  
That was steeped in dark despair?  
Did I pause in the busy stride of life,  
For that soul to say a prayer?

Have I soothed the sobs of a weeping child,  
Who grieved for a broken toy?  
Was I there to console the mother,  
Who had lost her only boy?

Have I brought a little sunshine,  
To a drear and clouded life,  
And stayed the feet that were straying,  
Or the hand that held a knife?

If I can answer yes to myself  
As these thoughts go through my mind,  
I can wait with joy for the day to come  
I'm at peace with the hours behind.

*By Mae Rush (written around 1920)*

*Mary Honora (Tracy) Rush was a mother of ten who raised them in Morton, Minnesota and later Minneapolis. She was not a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, but this poem very much captures the central truth of our charitable works. Mrs. Rush's great-grandson is currently the National Formation Director for the Society in the United States.*