



# QUOTES FROM THE SOCIETY'S KEY FIGURES

## St. Vincent de Paul

- “Let us love God, but let it be with the work of our hands and the sweat of our brows.”
- “Your attitude must be that of Christ.”
- “It is our vocation...to set people’s hearts ablaze, to do what the Son of God did, who came to light a fire on earth in order to set it aflame with his love.”
- “It is not enough for me to love God if my neighbor does not love Him. I must love my neighbor as the image of God and the object of his love.”
- “Give me a man of prayer, and he will be capable of doing all things.”
- “Say little, do much.”
- “May our presence and care to those most in need reflect the gentleness, esteem and dignity we see reflected in the life and work of Jesus.”
- “To be involved in the service of Jesus is a sacred trust to which we have been invited.”
- “May God remain forever in your heart and give you the strength necessary for every trial.”
- “You will practice charity better by preserving yourself to serve your neighbor for a long time than by wearing yourself out in a short time over the salvation of a few.”
- “I beg Our Lord that he may be the object of your thoughts and the rule of your actions.”
- “God does not ask you to go beyond the means he has given you.”
- “Proceed quietly, pray a great deal and act together.”
- “Kindness is the key to hearts.”
- “We must strive to soften our hearts and make them sensitive to the suffering and worries of the neighbor.
- “Grace has its moments. Let us abandon ourselves to the providence of God and be very careful not to run ahead of it.”
- “God does nothing without some good purpose.”
- “Let us finish what we have begun and our Lord will help us.”
- “Come now, let us engage ourselves with renewed love to serve the poor, and let us even seek out the poorest and most abandoned of all.”
- “It is from your hands that Our Lord in the person of the sick seeks relief.”
- “God accepts the undertakings of one who presents things frankly just as they are.”
- “Put yourself in the patient’s place and fancy how you would feel.”
- “You represent the goodness of God to the sick.”
- “Love is inventive, even to infinity.”
- “We must always do things with the greatest possible simplicity.”

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- “Have foresight when tending your patients; anticipate their needs.”
- “Every ward of a hospital is a chapel wherein Jesus resides.”
- “God wishes you to attend to your patients’ spiritual necessities as well as their physical needs.”
- “Always, the hand of God is outstretched for those who wish to clasp it.”
- “Have the courage to own up to one’s omissions and blunders.”
- “We should consider that day happy in which we have either prevented any evil or done any good.”
- “Small negligences create the greatest useless expense.”
- “Duplicity is not pleasing to God and to be truly simple we should propose to ourselves no other end but to please God alone.”
- “If God is the center of your life, no words will be needed. Your mere presence will touch their hearts.”
- “In order to acquire a solid habit of any virtue, it is necessary to form good resolutions on the particular acts of this virtue and be faithful in executing them.”
- “We should watch over the interests of others as well as do our own, and be careful to act on every occasion with uprightness and fidelity.”
- “We should spend at least as much time in thanking God for His favors as we have in asking them.
- “Those whom you serve should feel the efforts of your kindheartedness.
- “The more you give to our Lord, the more blessings you will receive. His yoke is sweet to him who embraces it willingly.”
- “Do not burden yourself with rules and practices; strengthen yourself to fulfill well those you have, especially as regards your daily actions and employments; in short, let your greatest concern be to do well what you do.”
- “It is an obligation for us to inconvenience ourselves for the service of the poor.”
- “Free your mind of anything that troubles you; God will take care of it.”
- “Picture to yourself that there are millions of souls with outstretched arms calling you!”
- “God always blesses humble beginnings more than those that make a big stir!”
- “We should assist the poor in every way and do it both by ourselves and by enlisting the help of others... to do this is to preach the gospel by word and by work.”
- “Your patients need a share of your joy.”
- “It is in silence that we can hear God speak to our hearts.”
- “There are very few for so much work! Our Lord will have to labor with you.”
- “Rash judgments are what Jesus most reprovved in the Gospel.”
- “Today’s efforts will make tomorrow’s easier.”
- “No matter what others say or do, even if the wicked succeed, do not be troubled: commit everything to God and put your trust in him.”
- “Evenness of temper is a particular virtue, a state which supposes an aggregate of all the virtues, an external manifestation of the peace and beauty of the interior.”
- “May God increase your strength and may he make you share more and more in his spirit.”
- “We should not indeed be doing enough for God and our neighbor if we supplied the sick merely with nourishment and medicine, and if we did not assist them with the spiritual services we owe them.”
- “Charity is the cement that unites communities to God and individuals to each other, so that he who contributes to the union of hearts in a community binds it indissolubly to God.”
- “...to be faithful is to persevere in the service of God right to the end, for without perseverance, all is lost.”
- “Have great trust in God. Ask Him to be always in your heart, in your words and in your actions and may everyone recognize that you are His.”

## Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

- “If we are too young to intervene in the social struggle, are we then to remain passive in the middle of a world which is suffering and groaning? No, a preparatory path is open to us. Before doing public good, we can try to do good to a few. Before regenerating France, we can give relief to a few of her poor.”
- “Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveler who has been attacked. It is justice’s role to prevent the attack.”
- “Love possesses something of the divine nature, which gives itself without diminishing, shares itself without division, and is multiplied and present in many places at once.”
- “Let us learn to stand up for our convictions without hating our opponents.”
- “If anything consoles me on leaving this earth before having done what I would have liked, it is that I have never worked for men’s praise, but for the service of truth.”
- “I request that we take care of the people who have too many needs and not enough rights, who rightly claim a greater share in public affairs, guarantees for work and against poverty.”
- “Let us love this little Society which has placed us on the path to a more charitable and more Christian life.”
- “By drawing closer to the poor, we draw closer to God. And we students must draw closer to God a little more every day, or we’ll find ourselves falling away from him.”
- “Our membership in such a union will bear silent and humble witness to the faith that is in us — a faith that has always inspired its more devoted adherents to work for the good of those the world despises and neglects.”
- “One thing is wanting — works of charity. The blessing of the poor is the blessing of God. Let us go to the poor.”
- “Overcome your timidity and go out boldly into the slums and visit those unknown to you who have never come near your parish church.”

## St. Louise de Marillac

- “Remember...it is for the accomplishment of His will that you must work...as would an ambassador for a king. All must be done with gentleness of heart and humility, as we consider the interests of those with whom we are working rather than our own or even those of the Company.”
- “Do not believe that things will always be as they now are.”
- “When I am accomplishing some good deed, I shall develop the habit of calling to mind the belief that God and His angels are watching me.”
- “You will love one another realizing that since God has chosen and assembled you to render Him the same service, you must be like one body animated by the same spirit, and look upon one another as members of the same body.”
- “Let us truly love each other in Him, but let us love Him in each other since we are His.”
- “The least esteemed by men are perhaps the best loved by God.”
- “If you realized how fortunate you are to be in a place where everything contributes to your sanctification, you would praise God continually for having chosen you for his work.”
- “I beg you to be an example...who is given to God for the service of the poor and who, therefore, must be more with the poor than with the rich...”
- “To serve the poor with joy, courage, constancy and love...to be very careful of the goods of the poor and the interests of the house to be faithful to prayer, even while coming and going, if time does not permit you to make your meditation in the Chapel.”
- “Remember it is the poor that you serve, that it is their money you are using.”
- “We should be faithful in little things, keep ourselves in the presence of God, and have a great desire to please Him.”
- “God makes the interests of the afflicted his own.”

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- “Continue to be edification to the neighbor, the consolation of the afflicted and the solace of the sick.”
- “Be at peace and continue working as you have always done; the trouble you have already taken will not be lost. You know that after the rain comes the sunshine.”
- “It is well to suffer patiently and await the hour of God in the most trying affairs.”
- “To give of one’s means is nothing if one does not give oneself, and employ every moment of one’s life, and even expose it to danger for the love of God, in serving the poor.”
- “When the Spirit of God dwells in souls, he delivers them from that weakness which makes them ask, ‘What will people say?’”
- “I beg of you to show the poor great affection.”
- “Though truth and sincerity should ever guard our words, yet we should be careful never to offend others.”
- “How good it is to trust God! Turn to him often, then, as children look to their father and mother in their needs.”
- “More is required of us than to go, to come, and to give; our intentions should be pure and thoroughly devoid of self-interest.”
- “The holy will of God has assigned to us our present employment. We should perform our work with the fidelity of an ambassador executing the orders of his sovereign.”

## Blessed Rosalie Rendu

- “God has already touched your heart, or you would not be giving up your precious free day to serve the poor. And, because you see Christ in his poor, I know you will approach each one you visit with humility as His servant. Always remember, that if we had been through the hardships they have had to meet— if our childhood had been one of constant want — perhaps, we too, would have given away to envy and hatred, as I must admit have many of the poor in this quarter.”
- “But be kind and love, for love is your first gift to the poor. They will appreciate your kindness and your love more than all else you bring them.”
- “Hunt down poverty in order to give humanity its dignity.”
- “There is something that is choking me, and takes away my appetite...the thought that so many families lack bread.”
- “There are many ways of providing charity. The assistance of money or assistance in-kind that we give to the poor will not last long. We must aspire to a more complete and longer lasting benefit: study their abilities, their level of instruction, and try to get them work to help them out of their difficulties.”
- “One night I dreamed that I stood at the judgment seat of God. God received me with great severity and was about to pronounce my sentence when, suddenly, I was surrounded by an immense crowd of people carrying old boots, shoes, and hats. They presented all these things to God saying: ‘She was the one who gave us all these things.’ Then Jesus Christ turned toward me and said: ‘Because you gave all these second-hand clothes in my name, I open heaven to you. Enter for all eternity.’”