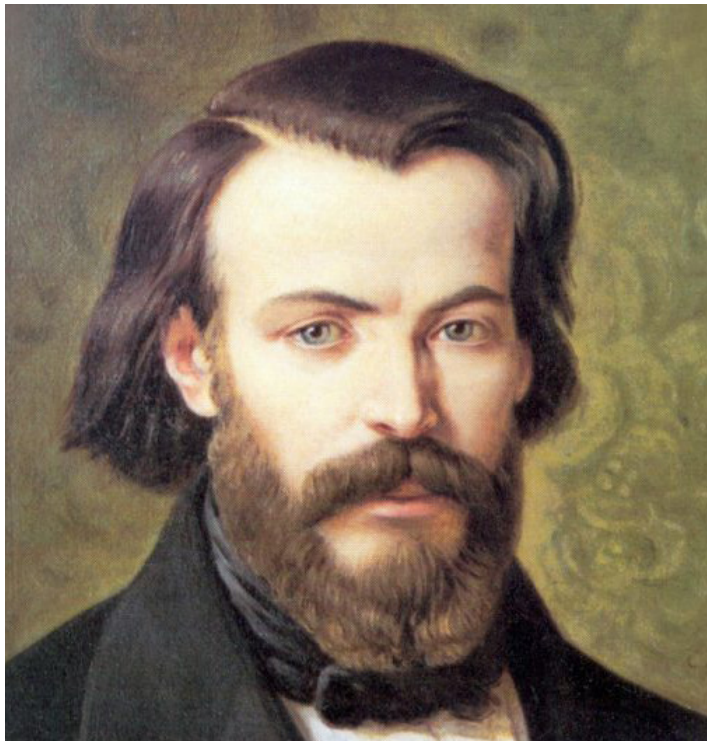




# The man behind the Society: **Blessed Frédéric Ozanam**



“I would like to embrace  
the whole world in a  
network of charity.”

– Frédéric Ozanam

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23 April 1813 – 8 September 1853

# Timeline

## *Blessed Frédéric Ozanam*



### 1813

Born in Milan, Italy on 23rd April 1813, the 5th child of 14 children (only one of three survived into adulthood), to Marie Nantes and Jean Antoine Ozanam, a physician.



### 1815

When the city of Milan fell to the Austrians in 1815, the Ozanams returned to their native city of Lyon, where Frédéric spent his early years.

### 1819

Frédéric contracts a severe case of typhus - aged 6.

### 1831

Frédéric was a highly intelligent young man and studied Law at the Sorbonne University in Paris.

During debates at his university, a number of people challenged Frédéric about what the Catholic Church was doing to help the many poor and suffering people of France.



### 1833

Frédéric, who was seen as a natural leader of his fellow Catholic students, decided to take action, to show that more could be done.

He started the 'Conference of Charity' with other Sorbonne students at the age of 20.



# Timeline

*Blessed Frédéric Ozanam*

## 1833 *Continued...*

The group followed the example of St Vincent de Paul, the French saint who had done so much work to help the poor 200 years earlier, renaming their Conference 'the Society of St Vincent de Paul'.

The group was also inspired by a young Daughter of Charity, Rosalie Rendu, and they worked closely with her to help the poor.

## 1834-1839

Received Bachelor of Law Degree, Bachelor of Arts (1835) and Doctorate of Law (1836). In 1839 he obtained Doctor of Letters with a thesis on Dante that then formed the basis of Ozanam's best-known books.

## 1841

Married to Amélie Soulacroix.

## 1844

A friend of Frédéric Ozanam, who was studying in Paris, was George Wigley. He was born near Manchester but grew up in France. With the help of Frédéric, he started the first SVDP group in England.

## 1845

Only daughter, Marie Ozanam born July 24.

## 1853

Frédéric died 8th September 1853, aged 40. He was beatified on 22nd August 1997 and we celebrate his feast day on 9th September.

### Did you know?

SVDP was founded in NZ by Father Jean Baptiste Chataigner in July 1867. A priest of the Society of Mary and parish priest of Christchurch at that time.

