

Spiritual Reflection for May 2026

Mary, Divine Mother

Give, and it shall be given to you; a good measure . . . shall they pour into your lap. For with the same measure that you use, it shall be measured out of you. - Luke 6:38

Reflection: 'Blessed are they, says the divine Mother, who pay attention to my charity and, in imitation of me, practice it towards others.

Our charity toward our neighbor will be the measure of that which God and Mary will show us.'
Excerpt from 'The Glories of Mary' written by St. Alphonsus Liguori

St. Alphonsus Liguori lived in the Kingdom of Naples (1696-1787). He was the founder of the Redemptorist Order with a special focus on preaching missions to the rural poor.

Like many of his countrymen, Alphonsus was a man of passion and volatility. He found his balance and security in his devotion to the Blessed Mother. He was confident Mary would hear his prayers, and she was a great spiritual wellspring of his life. <https://redemptorists.net/st-alphonsus-liguori>:

Reflection Questions

1. Blessed Frederic Ozanam also held a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother and Mary is the Patron of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Have you found it helpful to pray for Mary's intercession with Neighbours in Need whose circumstances are particularly challenging?
2. Are you troubled by this teaching of reciprocity in our treatment of others and our approach to life?

Prayer:

O Mary, you always showed true charity toward others. Enable me to overcome my human prejudices and be charitable to all people, for they are my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Submitted by Sr. Martha Eloi, St Boniface Conference, Scarborough East

George Orwell, Down and Out in Paris and London (1933)

Excerpts from non-fiction

“It is worth saying something about the social position of beggars, for when one has consorted with them, and found that they are ordinary human beings, one cannot help being struck by the curious attitude that society takes towards them. People seem to feel that there is some essential difference between beggars and ordinary 'working' men. They are a race apart--outcasts, like criminals and prostitutes. Working men 'work', beggars do not 'work'; they are parasites, worthless in their very nature. It is taken for granted that a beggar does not 'earn' his living, as a bricklayer or a literary critic 'earns' his. He is a mere social excrescence, tolerated because we live in a humane age, but essentially despicable.”

“Yet if one looks closely, one sees that there is no ESSENTIAL difference between a beggar's livelihood and that of numberless respectable people. “...

“Then the question arises, why are beggars despised? --for they are despised, universally. I believe it is for the simple reason that they fail to earn a decent living. In practice nobody cares whether work is useful or useless, productive or parasitic; the sole thing demanded is that it shall be profitable. In all the modern talk about energy, efficiency, social service and the rest of it, what meaning is there except 'Get money, get it legally, and get a lot of it'? Money has become the grand test of virtue. By this test beggars fail, and for this they are despised.....”

Reflection Question:

Author George Orwell was penniless early in his career and on the receiving end of charity. Do you think current society (and members of SSVP for that matter) hold a similar view of those receiving charity, Ontario Works or ODSP? How are they viewed?

Submitted by Bro. Gerry Beelen Blessed Sacrament Conference -TNPC