



SPIRITUAL REFLECTION - Father Alan Roberts

February 2022

MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

God said: 'Let us make people in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves ...
*God created humanity in the image of himself,
In the image of God he created them,
Male and female he created them. (Gen 1:26-27)*

COMMENTARY:

We notice here first of all that people are made *in the image* of God. This belief dates from the foundation of the Jewish/Christian faith. It was in the minds of people at least 1600 years before Jesus. Jesus highlights this understanding by teaching us not to judge others and so he touches the leper and tells us to wash the feet of one another.

This alone is enough to tell us that all people deserve our utmost respect. It is a matter of loving the poor, because they too are in the image of God and great care must be taken to ensure absolute respect. Members of the Society must understand this. Do you remember Angela's Ashes? The mother approaches the Vincent de Paul Society out of need and is judged. **Giving someone a food parcel today doesn't mean they will be rich tomorrow.**

It is important we keep our eye on the ball so to speak. I would be lying if at times I don't fall into the trap of judging and losing respect for those who are in need of support. Phrases sometimes ring in my head: *they create their own misery; they are simply using us; they need to get their life under control. They just don't appreciate what we do?*

Reflection:

- 1) **Cold as charity.** Where have you seen that phrase in reality?
- 2) What would be a better term for the word 'charity'?
- 3) What might be a phrase that reflects your prejudice to those in need?

Prayer Intention - Pray daily during February that we will recognise God in those we serve

*Jesus, lover of the poor,
Grant me the grace of truly believing
That all people are created in your image.
Teach me to understand it is you we serve
When we serve the poor.
Teach me to love without
Judgment,
Prejudice
Or
Superiority
Simply because
All human beings are made in your image
And I also am a poor person.*