

INTERCESSORY PETITION

Brothers, let us praise Christ who on this day of prayer for vocations to the Oblates and plead that the Father continue sending missionaries to our Congregation, responding:

Lord, send workers in your vineyard for the harvest

Remember, Lord, your Church,

--preserve it from every evil and make it perfect in your love.

Guide our Holy Father, Pope Francis,

--protect and strengthen him with your Spirit.

Bless our Congregation,

--may we preach by word and deed "who Christ is."

Assist our Superior General,

--may he guide the Congregation in the spirit of St Eugene and be a sign of unity among all Oblates.

Sustain all missionaries of the Gospel,

--may they be faithful and courageous ministers of your Kingdom.

Be with our absent brothers,

--keep them always in your love.

Call others to share in our life and work,

--send laborers into your harvest.

Reward those who make our life possible,

--grant eternal life to all who have done us good for your Name's sake

With confidence and hope together, we say: Our Father...

Receive Father, in your generosity, the prayer we humbly present and grant Missionary Oblates, whom you lovingly care for, the willingness to totally dedicate their lives for the salvation of the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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3. The Joy of Personal Encounter



PREFACE

The foundational experience of the Oblate charism is what our Founder described as his joy, a personal encounter with the Saviour on a Good Friday. "Never was my soul more satisfied, never did I feel such happiness; for in the midst of this flood of tears, despite my grief, or rather through my grief, my soul took wings for its last end, towards God its only good whose loss I felt so keenly. Why say more? Could I ever express what I experienced then?...Blessed, a thousand times blessed, that he, the good Father, notwithstanding my unworthiness, lavished on me all the richness of his mercy." (Spiritual Writings, vol 15, p.81, Dec 1814)

As spiritual sons of St Eugene, we are also invite to relive within ourselves the joy of the Gospel, and renew our personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

Ryszard Szmydski, omi



Prayer for Oblate Vocations

PHILLIPIANS 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Be always joyful in the Lord!



Recognize your dignity and never dishonor your Mother!



Letter of the Founder after approval of the CCRR

My dear brothers, on February 17, 1826, the Sovereign Pontiff Leo XII confirmed the decision of the congregation of Cardinals and specifically approved the Institute, the Rules and Constitutions of the Missionary Oblates of most holy and Immaculate Virgin Mary, and accompanied this solemn act of his pontifical powerThe conclusion to be drawn from this, my dear friends and brothers, is we must work, with renewed ardour and still more total devotion, to bring to God all the glory that stems from our efforts and to the needy souls of our neighbors in all possible ways, we must attach ourselves heart and soul to our Rules and practice more exactly what they prescribe to us...Somewhat puny as we are, being weak and few in number, we nonetheless have an existence in the Church no less than that of the most famous bodies, and the most holy societies. It is that we are now constituted. Just now I can quietly say to you what I will say out loud when the brief is delivered:

Know your dignity, take care never to dishonor your Mother who has just been enthroned and recognized as Queen in the family of the Spouse, whose grace will make her fecund enough to engender a great number of children, if we are faithful and do not draw upon her a shameful sterility by our prevarications. In the name of God, let us be saints.