



## Oblate Novena of Prayers for Vocations, Justice and Peace & Integrity of Creation

May 21- 29, 2016

[www.omiusajpic.org](http://www.omiusajpic.org)

### May 21- Feast of St. Eugene De Mazenod

Heavenly Father, you inspired Saint Eugene De Mazenod to send forth missionaries to teach and live the Gospel among the poor. Increase our love, we humbly pray, for those who are most abandoned. Extend your loving call to many young men in Oblate community, and grant them the generosity to give of themselves, their lives and their talents, to the service of Jesus Christ and the Church in the spirit of St. Eugene de Mazenod. May more men of our community go forth as priests and brothers of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate,

to serve those who are most in need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### May 22 - Welcoming the Stranger

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. *Hebrews 13:2*

#### Reflection:

One day Eugene went into the lawyer's house and was surprised to see there was no fire: "Why", he said to the family, don't you have any heating today, although it is really cold?" The ladies answered, teasing him...: "Because we are poor and wood is expensive." Eugene said goodbye and left: an hour later he is seen pushing along with some difficulty a little cart, loaded up with branches, that he drops briskly outside their door, saying: "Now then, here's something to warm you up." You can imagine the whole family's feelings confronted with this sign of goodness. Several of its members used to tell it still thirty years later with tears in their eyes. *Eugene De Mazenod - Diary of the Exile in Italy (1791-1802)*

### May 23 - Option for the Poor

For the LORD is God, and he created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. He made the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos. "I am the LORD," he says, "and there is no other". *Isaiah 45:18*

#### Reflection:

"Go out to show Christ to the world, we are told, but we cannot do that as St Eugene did unless we know that it is the poor people in whom Christ shows himself to us... Our own love of Christ is tested by the love we have for the people to whom we bring the Gospel of the Pasch, to whom holding up the Cross we try to show God's mercy and God's love."

*Fr. David Power, OMI (1932-2014) Reflection in Honor of Oblate Day - OMIUSA*

### May 24 - Integrity Of Creation

"The fact that Christ is cosmic and that nature is shaped in his likeness means too that God's face is manifest everywhere. If physical creation is patterned on Christ, then we must search for God not just in our scriptures, in our saints and in our churches..." *Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

#### Reflection:

Food insecurity, fast melting glaciers, an increase in natural disasters and a rise in sea levels are all examples of the breakdown of our earthly home. Although the world's poor contribute the least to climate degradation, they are most affected. As individuals, let us make a fervent commitment to honor our creator and each other by caring for our precious gift, the earth.



### May 25 - Apostolic Community

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What must we do?" He answered, "Whoever has two tunics should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise."

*Luke 3:10-11*

#### Reflection:

Community and Mission: Oblate fulfill mission in and through the community to which we belong. Our communities, therefore, are apostolic in character. ... By growing in unity of heart and mind, we bear witness before the world that Jesus lives in our midst and unites us in order to send us out to proclaim God's reign.

*OMI Constitution 37*

### May 26 - Our Common Home

"In the present condition of global society, where injustices abound and growing numbers of people are deprived of basic human rights and considered expendable, the principle of the common good immediately becomes, logically and inevitably, a summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters." (no. 158) *Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home*

#### Reflection

Servants! Farmhands! Peasants! Poor! Come and learn who you are in the eyes of God. You poor of Jesus Christ, you afflicted, unfortunate suffering, infirm, diseased: all you who are burdened with misery, listen to me! You are the children of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, co-heirs of His eternal kingdom, His cherished inheritance. Lift up your minds: you are the children of God. Look through the tatters that cover you.

*St. Eugene de Mazenod, OMI*

### May 27 - Respecting All Life

"I am convinced that this way is the best, since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity, and society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes."

*Sep. 24, 2015 Pope Francis' address to Congress*

#### Reflection:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the precious gift of life. Help us to cherish and protect this gift, even in the midst of fear, pain, and suffering. Give us love for all people, especially the most vulnerable, and help us

bear witness to the truth that every life is worth living. Grant us the humility to accept help when we are in need, and teach us to be merciful to all. Through our words and actions, may others encounter the outstretched hands of your mercy. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

— *USCCB Respect Life Program Prayer Card: "Every Life is Worth Living"*

### May 28 - Our Faith, Our Values

"...Consider things with a faith - vision...."

*-St Eugene De Mazenod, September 16, 1817*

#### Reflection:

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, through socially responsible investing promote a more equitable and sustainable world. This is accomplished by the exercise of a prudent stewardship over the financial resources that have been entrusted into our care for the support of our mission and steadfast commitment to social and environmental issues.

*OMI Faith Consistent Investing*

### May 29 - Blessed Joseph Gerald, OMI

Through the eyes of our crucified Savior, we see the world, which he redeemed with his blood, desiring that those in whom he continues to suffer will know also the power of his resurrection. Growing in faith, hope and love, we commit ourselves to be a leaven of the Beatitudes at the heart of the world. Our mission requires that, in a radical way, we follow Jesus who was chaste and poor, and who redeemed mankind by his obedience".

*Eugene De Mazenod - Rule of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate*