



MISSION ENRICHMENT

Volume 18, No. 4 | July-Aug, 2018

The Spirit of the Gospel in Service of the Mission



The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore.

- Vincent van Gogh, Artist



Year of Oblate Vocations

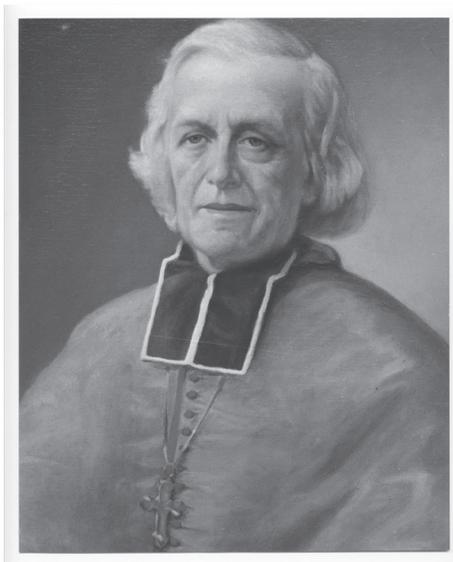
ON THE PROMPTINGS OF GOD'S GRACE

(A Sermon by Blessed John Henry Newman)

... consider the circumstances of the call of Abraham, the father of all who believe. He was called from his father's house, but was not told whither. St. Paul was bid go to Damascus, and there he was to receive further directions. In like manner Abraham left his home for a land "that I will show thee," [Gen. 12:1] says Almighty God. Accordingly he went out, "not knowing whither he went." ...Such are the instances of Divine calls in Scripture, and their characteristic is this; to require instant obedience, and next to call us we know not to what; to call us on in the darkness. Faith alone can obey them.

But it may be urged, How does this concern us now? We were all called to serve God in infancy, before we could obey or disobey; we found ourselves called when reason began to dawn; we have been called to a state of salvation, we have been living as God's servants and children.... Calling is not a thing future with us, but a thing past. This is true in a very sufficient sense; and yet it is true also that the passages of

continued on back page



WRITINGS OF THE FOUNDER

July 26, 1853 letter to Fr. Casimir Aubert at Calvaire in Marseilles--

I waited in vain for you on Sunday and Monday. It seems that there are more urgent affairs than those you are to treat with me. That is not acceptable. While I am writing as I do, I have just noticed upon putting my papers in order that I had 45 letters needing an

answer. How is it that no one sees the need of giving me a secretary who would in my name handle current business? ...

Who is this insipid young fellow who came to ask, in your name, permission to make a retreat? Let's not get caught again for the fiftieth time. In these matters, you do not have a deft hand. Beware of your goodness. Follow your discernment rather than your heart. You have been too often deceived to not be on your guard....

Did Father Vincens have any reaction to your quip? I wrote to Gignoux. What is going on with Fathers Dassy, Laverlochère and Gondrand? Do you know how things are going at Notre-Dame du Garde? I have not had any news of them in a donkey's years. And the letter from that person in Nancy has only served to cause me concern.... I am fed up with all these questionable dealings.

Father Merlin has written to me again. His letter is worth considering. It is filled

with common sense and brings me up to date on many things. He needs a head of the mission band, one of a more impressive personality than those of our young men. Will it be an easy thing to find him? Evidently, we stretched ourselves too thin in order to avoid not accepting what Providence seemed to be sending us. If all of our members were what they should be, we would get along. But when we have to strive against imperfections, whims, the lack of virtue, it is enough to make one lose one's head, or at least to be sorely distressed by it. I am writing to you as if we were a hundred leagues apart; that is because I cannot foresee when we will be able to get together to talk....

Goodbye, I am giving my letter to Father Deveronico who cannot avoid going to St. Remo because his mother is very ill.

+ C. J. Eugene, Bishop of Marseilles,
Superior General

Ideas or comments are welcome.

The Mission Enrichment Newsletter for those working with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate is published six times a year.

Geri Furmanek, Editor | Mission Enrichment Office | Paul Schulte Center | 224 S.De Mazonod Dr., | Belleville IL 62223-1035

Tel:618-394-6990 Fax:618-394-6987 | e-mail: gfurmanek@omiusa.org

A Life that Makes a Difference

by Steve Goodier

“How do you account for your remarkable accomplishment in life?” Queen Victoria of England asked Helen Keller. “How do you explain the fact that even though you were both blind and deaf, you were able to accomplish so much?”

Ms. Keller’s answer is a tribute to her dedicated teacher. “If it had not been for Anne Sullivan, the name of Helen Keller would have remained unknown.”

“Little Annie” Sullivan, as she was called when she was young, was no stranger to hardship. She was almost sightless herself, due to a childhood infection at the age of five. Her mother died three years later and her father left the children when she was ten. She and her younger brother were sent to an overcrowded home for the destitute where her brother Jimmie died in a couple of months. Little Annie was, at one time, considered hopelessly “insane” by her caregivers and locked in the basement. On occasion, she would violently attack anyone who came near. Most of the time she generally ignored everyone in her presence.

An elderly nurse believed there was hope, however, and she made it her mission to show love to the child. Every day she visited Little Annie. For the most part, the child did not acknowledge the nurse’s presence, but she still continued to visit. The kindly woman left cookies for her and spoke words of love and encouragement. She believed Little Annie could recover, if only she were shown love.

Eventually, doctors noticed a change in the girl. Where they once witnessed

anger and hostility, they now noted an emerging gentleness and love. They moved her upstairs where she continued to improve. She was finally released to attend Perkins School for the Blind in Boston, Massachusetts, where she would learn to read and write. She struggled against a multitude of odds but was determined to learn. Anne eventually graduated as valedictorian of her class.

*Just how far back does the chain of redemption extend?
And how far forward will it lead?*

Anne Sullivan grew into a young woman with a desire to help others as she, herself, was helped by the loving nurse. It was she who saw the great potential in Helen Keller. She loved her, disciplined her, played with her, pushed her, and worked with her until the flickering candle that was her life became a beacon of light to the world. Anne Sullivan worked wonders in Helen’s life, but it was a loving nurse who first believed in Little Annie and lovingly transformed an angry, grief-stricken child into a compassionate teacher.

“If it had not been for Anne Sullivan, the name of Helen Keller would have remained unknown.” But if it had not been for a kind and dedicated nurse, the name of Anne Sullivan would have also remained unknown. And so it goes. Just how far back does the chain of redemption extend? And how far forward will it lead?



Those you have sought to reach, whether they be in your family or elsewhere, are part of a chain of love that can extend through the generations. Your influence on their lives, whether or not you see results, is immeasurable. Your legacy of dedicated kindness and caring can transform lost and hopeless lives for years to come.

Do you want a life that makes a difference? Never overestimate the power of your love. It is a fire that, once lit, may burn forever. †

I don't have to invalidate anyone else's views in order to validate my own. It's all right to disagree. Today I will respect someone's right to think differently.

(Pg. 362)

“Think for yourself and let others enjoy the privilege of doing so too.”

~ Voltaire

HORSE JOKE

Jack strode into ‘John’s Stable’ looking to buy a horse. “Listen here” said John, “I’ve got just the horse your looking for, the only thing is, he was trained by an interesting fellow. He doesn’t go and stop the usual way. The way to get him to stop is to scream “heyhey” the way to get him to go is to scream “Thank God.”

Jim nodded his head, “fine with me, can I take him for a test run?”

Jim was having the time of his life this horse sure could run he thought to himself. Jim was speeding down the dirt road when he suddenly saw a cliff up ahead “stop!” screamed Jim, but the horse kept on going. No matter how much he tried he could not remember the words to get it to stop. “Yoyo” screamed Jim but the horse just kept on speeding ahead. It was 5 feet from the cliff when Jim suddenly remembered “heyhey!” Jim screamed. The horse skidded to a halt just 1 inch from the cliff.

Jim could not believe his good fortune. He looked up to the sky, raise his hands in the air, breathed a deep sigh of relief and said with conviction “Thank God.” †

