**9
Jesus Reveals the Mysteries of the Kingdom**

**SETTING:** The animator of the encounter arranges the ambience so that all may be comfortably seated in a circle to facilitate prayer and discussion. A candle, the Bible, an Oblate Cross may be placed in the center of the community.

**Motivation:** This second year of the Oblate Triennium in which we focus on the Call to Conversion in the dimension of **Formation** is integrally connected to the Kingdom of God. Jesus introduced his disciples into the mystery of God’s Kingdom. We could say that he gave them three years of formation in the Kingdom and then sent the Holy Spirit to impel them as we too are impelled by the Spirit. The Reign of God stretches us, surprises us, baffles us, delights us and captivates us. We are invited by God over and over (hence the need to heed the Call to Conversion) to enter into and to live the ‘topsy-turvy’ logic of the Kingdom and to announce this Good news.

**SONG** (Taizé)

The kingdom of god is justice and peace
and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord and open in us the gates of your kingdom.

**Prayer**

Jesus, our brother and friend, you have inaugurated definitively the Reign of God among us and its offer of fullness of life. Help us to open our hearts to the Spirit’s action so that we are formed into true citizens of the God’s Kingdom where we live as God’s beloved daughters and sons, carrying out God’s will. We pray each day ‘may your Kingdom come.’ May this desire be central in our lives! We ask that the hiddenness, the mystery and presence of the Reign of God fill our hearts with great hope and joy. We ask this in your name. Amen

**The Word of God**

**Gospel of Matthew 13:31-33**: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.” He spoke another parable to them, “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour. Eventually the whole mass of dough began to rise.”

**Gospel of Matthew 13:44-46**: “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls,and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

Also: John 10:10, Lk. 15:10, Mt 4:17, Mt 6:5-13, Mt. 8:16 , Mt 9:13, Mt 10:1,

**Oblate Text:**

**OMI Constitution 5**

“We are a missionary Congregation. Our principal service in the Church is to proclaim Christ and his Kingdom to the most abandoned. We preach the Gospel among people who have not yet received it and help them see their own values in its light. Where the Church is already established, our commitment is to those groups it touches least. Wherever we work, our mission is especially to those people whose condition cries out for salvation and for the hope which only Jesus Christ can fully bring. These are the poor with their many faces; we give them our preference.”

**Going Deeper into the Theme:**

The Kingdom was central to Eugene’s life as we remember from a key phrase from the **Preface**: “We must **spare no effort to extend the Saviour's reign** and to destroy the dominion of hell.” De Mazenod’s missionaries within the Church would be called to serve the Reign of God and to work with audacity so that it would be extended and grow with strength.

Letters to North America 1851-1860, Vol 2, Eugene de Mazenod, pp 141-142, from Eugene de Mazenod to Fr. Végreville

Paris, March 25, 1857

 . . . Come, dear son, let us all **work according to the measure of our strength to extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ**. The part that has most fallen to you, if it is the most difficult, will also be the most meritorious. Keep me well in touch with the conquests that you are making over Hell. You are attacking it where it was well dug in; but the power of the Cross can do anything over those infernal regions, and so fight with confidence, for you will be the victors, and soon [the] … Indians, regenerated in the waters of baptism and settled at various points in your immense Vicariate will be your glory and your great consolation.

**Sharing our Faith**

The animator invites each Oblate present to share what has inspired him in the reflection and around the questions:

Share some signs of the Kingdom that you have witnessed or experienced.

What do you need to welcome the Kingdom more fully into your life?

The Kingdom is very closely related to the poor. How does our vow of poverty help us to live as Kingdom people? How can we grow to live Gospel poverty?

The Beatitudes are the great charter of the Kingdom and the first Beatitude is about the poor. Does the way we live the vow of poverty witness to the Reign of God and express the Beatitudes?

What might be a sign of conversion that lifelong formation in the mysteries of the Kingdom is shaping our hearts and our lives?

**Commitment**

**THANKSGIVING/Intentions for Common Prayer**

**Final Prayer**

**Blessing and Song**