



Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate United States Province

December 3, 2017

Dear Oblate of Mary Immaculate,

On this feast of the anniversary of the canonization of Eugene de Mazenod, I am pleased to announce to you, along with our Superior General, Fr. Louis Lougen, the Year of Celebration of Oblate Vocations, including the many groups who share in the Oblate charism of St. Eugene. This year begins December 8th, 2017 and ends January 25th, 2019.

In his letter announcing this year of prayer, reflection, and appreciation of our vocation, Fr. Lougen recalls the words of Pope Francis to the delegates at the 36th General Chapter. Pope Francis told us not to fall into the temptation of retiring our crosses and fade into the past. Rather, he told us, "The Church is counting on you to respond to the needs of the poor today and to write new pages in the history of evangelization." What a challenge Pope Francis has offered to us!

Inspired by these words, I encourage all of us who share in the Oblate charism in the U.S. Province (the Mazenodian Family) to reflect on the meaning of our individual vocation, to more deeply appreciate the call we have received from God, to pray for new members to the Oblate Congregation and to actively promote vocations to our missionary way of life. The missionary example of our lives will write new pages in our various ministries that will attract young men to consider joining us.

All of us are called to promote vocations to our missionary life! This year provides a special opportunity for all of us to promote a deeper understanding and appreciation of the meaning of vocations to the various groups that form our Mazenodian Family, united by the charism of St. Eugene.

It is my hope that this year of vocations will further instill in all of us greater gratitude to God for calling us to this missionary life and, together with all the members of the Mazenodian Family (Honorary Oblates, Oblate Associates, Oblate Partners, Oblate Affiliates, Oblate Friends, Oblate Donors, Families of Oblates, Oblate Employees), we may appreciate more deeply this treasure that is our charism, our gift to the Church.

Just as Mary "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart" (Luke 2:19), so may we, as Oblates of Mary Immaculate, more intensely treasure the vocation to which we have been called and generously responded!

In Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Fr. Louis Studer, OMI.
Provincial