



MISSION ENRICHMENT

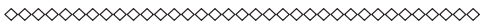
Volume 18, No. 4 | July-Aug, 2018

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

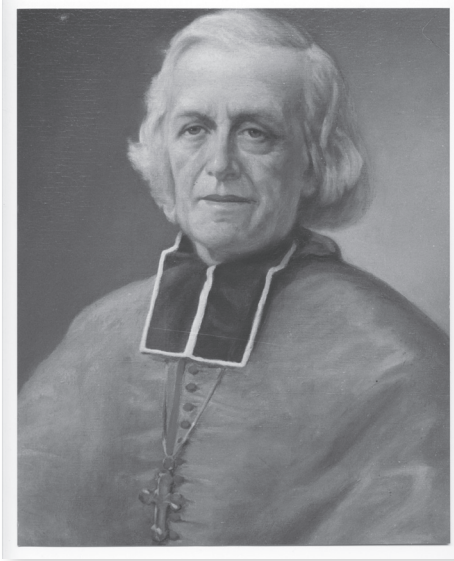
ON THE PROMPTINGS OF GOD'S GRACE

(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

Scripture which I have been quoting do apply to us still, do concern us, and may warn and guide us in many important ways.... For in truth we are not called once only, but many times; all through our life Christ is calling us. He called us first in Baptism; but afterwards also; whether we obey His voice or not, He graciously calls us still... He calls us on from grace to grace, and from holiness to holiness, while life is given us. Abraham was called from his home, Peter from his nets, Matthew from his office, Elisha from his farm, Nathanael from his retreat;... He calls us again and again, in order... to sanctify and glorify us. It were well if we understood this; but **we are slow to master the great truth, that Christ is, as it were, walking among us, and by His hand, or eye, or voice, bidding us follow Him.** We do not understand that His call is a thing which takes place now. We think it took place in the Apostles' days; but we do not believe in it, we do not look out for it in our own case....

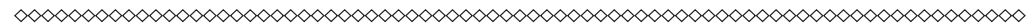
In this and such-like ways Christ calls us now. There is nothing miraculous or extraordinary in His dealings with us. He works through our natural faculties and circumstances of life.... The accidents and events of life are, as is obvious, one special way in which the calls I speak of come to us Many persons will find it very striking on looking back on their past lives, to observe what different notions they entertained at different periods, of what Divine truth was... and what things were allowable or not, what excellence was, and what was happiness.

We pass from one state of knowledge to another; we are introduced into a higher region from a lower, by listening to Christ's call and obeying it. Perhaps it may be the loss of some dear friend or relative through which the call comes to us; which shows us the vanity of things below.... We through grace do so in a way we never did before; and in the course of years, when we look back on our life, we find that that sad event has brought us into a new state of faith and judgment....

God may be bringing us into a higher world of religious truth; let us work with Him.... Let us beg and pray Him day by day to reveal Himself to our souls more fully.... †

every idea, with every image that comes into your head, say, "No, I'm not that; I don't need that; that's not me."

Sometimes, a boat turns around and heads back upstream to demand your attention again. Habitual thoughts are hard to not be hooked by. Sometimes you feel the need to torpedo your boats. But don't attack them. Don't hate them or condemn them. This is also an exercise in nonviolence. The point is to recognize your thoughts,



Facing the Unknown:

4 steps for moving past fear and achieving your dreams.

By: Marcelo Ronchini (from Spirituality & Health)

I was having a very bad year. I'd been laid off and my grandparents had passed away. They were the hub of the family and my grandmother's cooking brought us all together. She could cook anything, from the smoothest panna cotta to the most mouth-watering lasagna—and her pizza was really something special. She'd start in the morning, making the dough from scratch. By evening, she'd have a dozen large pizzas with different toppings, and the whole family would gather to feast....

So when grandmother passed away, I had an idea, and it was a no-brainer: I'd open a restaurant and serve that same pizza. That way, I'd honor her memory and preserve her culinary heritage—and, of course, I'd be a huge success.

It was a great idea—but that's all it was. I knew nothing about opening a restaurant or even working in one. Even worse, grandmother had left no recipes—she'd never used any!

I had a clear vision of what the restaurant would look like—I could see the walls, the menu, even the awning—but I had no clue where to start. I had a goal, but no idea how to reach it.

That is when the fear set in.

In my mind, I saw my restaurant the size of a pin, miles away in a vast field of black, and the negative thoughts took over. Most restaurants close within a year! What are you thinking? You can't do this! There was no bridge to cross the abyss, just black.

Months passed. I knew I had to find a way—but I was stuck in a nightmare of unknowns and surrounded by thoughts of failure. I was moving, but only inside the circle of fear I had created. **Fear had me paralyzed, but I didn't even know it. When you are in a state of fear, there is a false sense of action.** Your head is spinning and your mind is racing from one negative thought to another, but you are going nowhere.

Something had to change. I needed to find another approach to move me closer to my goal. **I started to address the fear by acknowledging it and filling the abyss with**

which are not you, and to say, "That's not necessary; I don't need that." But do it very pleasantly. If you learn to handle your own soul tenderly and lovingly, you'll be able to carry this same loving wisdom out into the world. Be at peace. †

"IF YOU LEARN TO HANDLE YOUR OWN SOUL TENDERLY AND LOVINGLY, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CARRY THIS SAME LOVING WISDOM OUT INTO THE WORLD. BE AT PEACE."

knowledge. This shift of focus allowed me to concentrate on something other than my fear. I started researching, and soon I was finding out all I could about the restaurant business from friends, family, strangers, books, and classes.

Before long, I'd practically forgotten about the black hole, the sinking feeling in my stomach. Within a year, with the help of family and friends, I opened the restaurant. It was a dream come true.

Eight years later—after getting married and forming a family, having my customers become my friends and seeing them get married and have kids of their own—it was time to move on. I sold the restaurant.

But now when I have doubts and fear, I look back on that black abyss that seemed so impossible to cross, and I think: I did it once. I can do it again.

4 Steps to Getting Past the Fear

1. Acknowledge your feelings. Step back and admit that fear has a grip on you. Only when we recognize our feelings do they begin to loosen their hold on us. Realize that you are more than your feelings. You are not your fear.

2. Define your goals. Make a list of what you want to accomplish and all the steps you need to take. Don't worry about any large gaps in your knowledge: half the fun is learning the ins and outs of your new project.

3. Take action. Take a baby step. Start on the easiest task. This will get the ball rolling. Action is key to diminishing fear's paralyzing grip.

4. Don't give up. There will be many obstacles along the way, and things may be even more difficult than you anticipate, but getting past these challenges is key to achieving your goals.

Don't let fear stand in the way of your dreams. †