



# Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate United States Province

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February 17, 2019

Dear Oblates and All Who Share in Our Charism,

Happy Oblate Day!

With many feasts on our Oblate calendar marking special events of our Oblate history, February 17<sup>th</sup> still rises to the top as one of the central celebrations of our Oblate Congregation. It marks the date of the approval of our Congregation by the Vatican. As such, it might be seen as our Confirmation, with January 25, 1816 serving as our Baptism!

This February 17<sup>th</sup>, I will be present for the renewal of commitment of Oblate Associates in San Antonio. Just a week before, I preached a day retreat for the Oblate Associates in Oakland and celebrated with them as they renewed their commitment to the charism of St. Eugene. These are always blessed and proud moments not only for us vowed Oblates but also for the entire Mazenodian Family.

Speaking of blessed and proud moments: The Mazenodian Family Vocation Congress in San Antonio was a time of charism renewal, celebration, prayer and support for the eight groups of the Mazenodian Family in the U.S. Province. Representatives of all three of the provinces of Canada joined us as well.

It is a great blessing of the Holy Spirit that so many people, from a diversity of cultures, ways of life, ethnicities, and languages are hungry to taste more deeply what we, as vowed Oblates, show them by our lives in and through a spirit of fidelity, joy and passion in our ministry and in our community life.

It is no secret to us Oblates that in our secular society many are searching for meaning, for purpose, for a "raison d'être." Some are finding it in the ministry we do, the life we lead, the spirituality we follow and promote.

St. Eugene's charism is a great gift to the whole church. For me, it is marked by a closeness to the people we serve by a "specialty for mission" that listens to the people we are sent to as missionaries, without a predetermined plan of what they need. It is marked by a devotion to the Crucified Savior who died for me and by a love of our Blessed Mother who reminds us to do "Whatever He tells you."

As followers of the charism of St. Eugene, may this day of renewal and celebration and prayer draw you ever more deeply into the Spirit of the Oblates who have gone before us to "leave nothing undared," and "to bring the good news to the poor." That is the vocation and mission we all participate in as members of the Mazenodian Family.

In Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Fr. Louis Studer, OMI  
Provincial

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