

21 May

Feast of St. Eugene de Mazenod



Biblical texts

Acts 4: 31-35

Mat 28: 19-20

Luke 4: 14-22a

Who is St. Eugene de Mazenod for you?

Eugene de Mazenod for me is someone who took time to reflect on his relationship with God, therefore acknowledging his weakness before God. He has a heart for the poor and consequently he respected and maintained the dignity of the poor. He therefore sacrificed his time, pleasure and richness of the world in order to respond fully to the call of God. He a leader too in the sense that he managed to bring together men who had same interest as him to form an institute. He is a determined man too who had given it all for the approbation of the congregation.

(NGHINYENGWASHA David Udeinge, Province of Namibia)

St Eugene de Mazenod is the apostle of charity.

St. Eugene de Mazenod is an example of the high priesthood of Christ.

St. Eugene de Mazenod is an example of humanity and Christian faith.

St. Eugene de Mazenod is a community builder.

St. Eugene de Mazenod is the personification of the Oblate charism which animates and revitalizes the Gospel message in the world.

(Rafael Eduardo Hernández Pardo, Colombia Mission)

For me, Saint Eugene de Mazenod is a missionary of Christ in the difficult places of the world. He is a friend and servant of the prisoners, the sick and the neglected. He is a successor of the apostles of Christ. He is always a man of the pope's obedience during the controversy with of the State of France after the French revolution. He is a model of Christ because he was rich and became poor and founder of missionaries for the poor.

(Emil Selvakumar ROCHE MARIYATHAS, Province of France)

St. Eugene inspires me because he was spiritually awake, listening to the call of the Holy Spirit; he saw the needs of God's people around him, and put his life at their service - that is oblation, in imitation of Christ who offered Himself; God has made Eugene's 'yes' fruitful for many, many people and generations; He was someone who brought people together in faith - Oblates, youth, the poor and abandoned, and others; As an Oblate, he is like a 'spiritual father' for me, whose example we must follow in our present time.

(Mateusz Garstecki, Province of the USA)

St. Eugene de Mazenod for me is
Lover of the poor and most abandoned
Lover of the Church
Lover of Evangelization and Mission
Lover of Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate
Lover of Youth

(Babar Shahzad, Delegation of Pakistan)

For me, St. Eugene de Mazenod is a great visionary leader. I believe that if one has the right vision in life, he would be a successful personality amidst the challenges of life. This quality of our founder inspires me not to lose sight of the commitment I make. I believe that the expansion of our congregation whole throughout the world is due to his foresighted vision to make our congregation missionary and periphery-seekers. Hence, St. Eugene's courageous visions become my inspirational identity.

(N. Ajanthan, Jaffna Province, Sri Lanka)

St. Eugene de Mazenod, apart from being our founder and father, is for me a model and a perfect example to show how one should love the Holy mother, the Church and the poor.

The first sentence in the preface of the constitutions and rules is about the deplorable situation of the spouse of Christ, the church. It demonstrates that he felt the pain of the mother thus, wanted to remedy the situation. The two great basilicas that he has built, and the missionaries who are being sent to the nations are some examples until now to show that he is a passionate lover and a guardian of the Church. Because of his unconditional love for the church, he dedicated his life for the poor and the most abandoned who are also the children of the Holy mother the church.

(SAHAYATHASAN Vimalraj, Jaffna Province, Sri Lanka)

For me Saint Eugene is a father. Indeed, I find in him a great value which is that of the family. In his writings I feel the immense love he had for his confreres. He loved them as if he had fathered them himself.

(Bruno Antoine DIENE, Delegation of Senegal)

He is my father in teaching me to be closer to God's will.

He is my friend accompanying me to do my conversion.

He is my brother who shares his adventures.

(HENRIKUS Prasajo, Province of Indonesia)

Saint Eugene, the faithful witness to the love and mercy of the Crucified One.

St. Eugene, a restless, daring and persevering saint who by his life and words proclaims the Kingdom of Heaven.

St. Eugene, a man with a big heart, in whom the poor and the abandoned were paramount.

St. Eugene, a man of mission, of community and of evangelical fire who gave himself to the last consequences.

Saint Eugene, a son in love with Mary Immaculate, before whom he contemplates the tender and loving face of the best of mothers.

(Luis Enrique Rodríguez Gutiérrez, Province of Mexico)

As an Oblate scholastic of Mary Immaculate, our holy Founder, Eugene de Mazenod, is for me first and foremost a father, from whom every child wants to learn and integrate the virtues he has left us as an inheritance. And like our mother the Blessed Virgin Mary, he is a daily companion, through his great love for us, his intercession and his fatherly solicitude for all his children.

(Martial YEGA MOUDOUE, Cameron Province)

St. Eugene de Mazenod is very important for me. He is the founder of our family and example for me as an Oblate. His love for Christ and holy Church is great inspiration and if I will be oblate for all my life, I want to follow his tendency to follow Jesus and serve the poor people. I like his power of the will to be saint, as the person and as the congregation.

(Zbieranski Slawomir, Province of Poland)

St. Eugene is the founder of the congregation of which I am a part. For me personally, St. Eugene is a true friend of God, he is an example for me of how to live. I see the same problems in the world, in the Church that he saw and I want to do something to improve the situation, just as St. Eugene would do. So he walked the way of God and showed me the way in which I too am able to walk.

(Sviatoslav CHERNETSKY, Delegation of Ukraine)

Saint Eugene is a spiritual father for all Oblates in growing in our Oblate charism. He is the font of this gift of the Charism which we have all received and participate in thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit in us. He is for me also a restorer of the Church, seeing the needs that were at hand and getting to work not remaining on the level of theory. He is also for me a visionary that was able to see into the future what the needs for the evangelization. Lastly, he is a reformer for me, hearing the call to return to the missionary model of the Church and always being close to those who were in need. All in all, he is the example for me of growing in holiness and love of the Lord for the service of my brothers.

(MALIK Jonas, Province of Assumption, Canada)

St. Eugene de Mazenod is a father for me who has raised a beautiful 'Oblate Family' and made me a part of it by his powerful intercessions and accompaniment. In addition, he is a powerful intercessor whose intercessions have helped me remain faithful in my vocation. Moreover, he is and should be recognized as the patron saint of broken families since he had experienced the brokenness of his own family. He was a visionary and foresighted man who could see the future of the growing Oblate family. Lastly, he was and remains a friend of the poor (physical and spiritual) and never stops accompanying them in and through the Oblates today.

(Noman Arif, Delegation of Pakistan)

St. Eugene de Mazenod is a saint who represented the very essence of compassion especially for the poor. He allowed himself to be pierced by the love of Christ in order to love unconditionally everyone, especially those in selflessness. He was a committed man whose work continues to inspire new generations especially the oblate family.

(Ikhyohia Bonaventure, Mission of Nigeria)

Before being officially known as a Saint by the universal Church, Eugene de Mazenod was someone who lived like the rest of us; experiencing joy, sadness, anguish, disappointment, and even exile. From his childhood he showed an unconditional love for the Church, which was then expressed in the total gift of his life to serve his sisters and brothers, the poor of the Church. He was a model of a fervent, pious, courageous and daring Christian who cared for his contemporaries but also for those who would come after him. When it came to the affairs of the Church, St. Eugene was never afraid to dare, even at the risk of his life. As a citizen of heaven, personally, he has left me an example of spirituality, towards which I want to walk and in fraternal charity I am certain that I can become a saint according to God's wish and his.

(Pierre Belleau JULES, Province of Haiti)

Those are the answers of the scholastics of the International Scholasticate in Rome, and you, who is Saint Eugene de Mazenod for you?

Prayer to Saint Eugene de Mazenod

Saint Eugene, we come to pray to you to be nourished by your passion for Jesus Christ and your unconditional love for the Church.

Saint Eugene, your spiritual experience before Christ on the Cross made you discover the loving gaze of God upon you. Guide us to welcome this gaze which reveals our true face and that of God.

Saint Eugene, like us, you have known the trials of life and found your strength in God to go forward. May we redouble our trust in God, our only support.

Saint Eugene, during your exile, you experienced the suffering of your parents' divorce. We entrust to you the families in difficulty and especially the children who are victims of these conflicts.

Saint Eugene, in your mission as bishop of Marseilles, you have always been an unconditional support for the Church. Teach us to love and serve her for the sole glory of God and the salvation of men and women.

Saint Eugene, the poor and the abandoned have always been at the centre of your service as a pastor. Help us to discover the value of every human being in the eyes of God and to reveal to them their eminent dignity.

St. Eugene, in praying to our Lady, you invite us, like her, to offer our lives to God. With you, we entrust to Mary, our Good Mother, the people we love and those we do not love enough... may she intercede for them before God our Father.

Mary, model of our faith, kindle in us the fire of the unity of the Apostles with Jesus your Son, that it may impel us to build communities that bear witness to God's love for all people and are totally dedicated to the evangelisation of the poor.

Praised be Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate!