

MAY 21

**SAINT CHARLES JOSEPH EUGENE  
DE MAZENOD**

Bishop, Founder of the Congregation

Feast

**Introduction**

*Charles Joseph Eugene de Mazenod was born in Aix-en-Provence in the south of France on August 1, 1782. The turmoil of the French Revolution changed his life. When Eugene was just eight years old, his family fled France and started a long and increasingly difficult eleven year exile in Italy. In 1802, Eugene was able to return to his homeland. France was a changed world; his parents had separated. He entered the seminary of St. Sulpice in Paris, and on December 21, 1811, was ordained a priest in Amiens. Returning to Aix-en-Provence, he started to exercise his priesthood in the care of the truly spiritually needy: prisoners, youth, servants, country villagers. Soon he sought out other equally zealous priests. From village to village they went, instructing at the level of the people. In between these parish missions, the group joined in an intense community life of prayer, study and fellowship. In 1816 they called themselves "Missionaries of Provence". On February 17, 1826, Pope Leo XII approved the new Congregation, the "Oblates of Mary Immaculate". Eugene was elected Superior General. His men ventured into England and Ireland. Eugene sent out others to Canada, to the United States, to Ceylon (Sri Lanka), to South Africa, to Basutoland (Lesotho). – In 1832, Eugene was named auxiliary bishop. His Episcopal ordination took place in Rome. Five years later, he was appointed to the See of Marseilles as its Bishop. Eugene was an outstanding pastor, ensuring the best seminary training for his priests, establishing new parishes, building the city's cathedral and the*

*spectacular Shrine of Notre Dame de la Garde above the city. Eugene de Mazenod died on May 21, 1861. Since his beatification in 1975, the date of his death is celebrated liturgically as his feast day. The Church declared him a saint on December 3, 1995. – The Founder’s successor, Father Joseph Fabre, said in a circular letter after Bishop de Mazenod’s death: “In God’s presence our beloved Father will be for us what he always was during his days here below. We, who have received his moving promise from his dying lips, can tell you this: he will be interceding for his sons...” (April 29, 1862)*

## MASS OF SAINT EUGENE DE MAZENOD

(Texts approved by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of Sacraments,  
Prot. 2105/ 95 / L, November 29, 1995)

### **Entrance antiphon**

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, who proclaims salvation! (Is 52:7)

### **Greeting**

The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**R/** And with your spirit.

### **Penitential rite**

Confident in the Lord’s mercy, let us recognize that we are sinners and ask that he convert our heart:

You call us to follow you, Lord, but we are not sufficiently attentive to your Word: Lord, have mercy.

**R/** Lord, have mercy.

You urge us, Lord, to live with love, but we lack the courage and generosity to help our brothers and sisters: Christ, have mercy.

**R/** Christ, have mercy.

You assure us, Lord, of your pardon, but we sometimes doubt that you are ready to welcome us: Lord, have mercy.

**R/** Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and lead us to eternal life.

**R/** Amen.

### **Collect**

**O God, in your mercy, you blessed your Bishop Saint Eugene de Mazenod with the zeal of an apostle to preach the Good News to the nations. Grant that by his intercession we may be filled with the same spirit, and dedicate ourselves wholeheartedly to the service of the Church and the salvation of all. Grant this**

**through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.**

**First Reading** (outside the Easter Season)

*All the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God*

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah (52:7-10)

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, "Your God is king!" Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

or

**First Reading** (in the Easter Season)

*United, heart and soul*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (4:31-35)

As (the disciples) prayed, the house where they were assembled rocked; they were all filled with the Holy

Spirit and began to proclaim the word of God boldly. The whole group of believers were united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The Apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned lands or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them to present it to the Apostles; it was then distributed to any members who would be in need.

**Responsorial Psalm (95:1-3, 7-8a, 10)**

**R/** Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

or

**R/** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. *(in the Easter Season)*

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all you lands. Sing to the Lord; bless his name.

Announce his salvation, day after day. Tell his glory among the nations; Among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

**R/** Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

or

**R/** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. *(in the Easter Season)*

Give to the Lord, you families of nations, give to the Lord glory and praise; give to the Lord the glory due his name!

Say among the nations: The Lord is king. He has made the world firm, not to be moved; He governs the peoples with equity.

R/ Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

or

R/ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. (in the Easter Season)

**Second Reading** (longer form)

*We are preaching a crucified Christ.*

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (1:18-25; 2:1-52)

The language of the cross may be illogical to those who are not on the way to salvation, but those of us who are on the way see it as God's power to save. As scripture says: "I shall destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothing all the learning of the learned." Where are the philosophers now? Where are the scribes? Where are any of our thinkers today? Do you see now how God has shown the foolishness of human wisdom? If it was God's wisdom that human wisdom should not know God, it was because God wanted to save those

who have faith through the foolishness of the message that we preach. And so, while the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here we are, preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, Christ, who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. As for me, brothers, when I came to you, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

or

**Second Reading** (shorter form)

*We are preaching a crucified Christ.*

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (2:1-52)

As for me, brothers, when I came to you, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and, in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

**Gospel Acclamation** (1)

R/ Alleluia, alleluia.

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. (Mk 16:15)

R/ Alleluia, alleluia.

or

**Gospel Acclamation** (2)

R/ Alleluia, alleluia.

Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the

commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. (Mt 28: 19-20)

R/ Alleluia, alleluia!

### **Gospel**

*This text is being fulfilled today*

+ A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (4:14-22a)

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazareth where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, and new sight to the blind, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour". He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen" And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips.

### **Prayer of the faithful**

On this feast day of Saint Eugene de Mazenod, let us turn to God, our Father, aware of our many needs and confident in his unfailing Providence. Together, we say:

**R/** Lord, graciously hear us.

Saint Eugene was the zealous pastor of his people: let us pray that our Holy Father and all the pastors of the Church may discern clearly the needs of those they have been called to guide, and may always proclaim with courage the demands of the Gospel. Lord, hear us.

**R/** Lord, graciously hear us.

Saint Eugene was committed to preaching the Good News of salvation to the poor: let us pray that today's missionaries of the Gospel may always seek out the most abandoned and reawaken in them a strong sense of their dignity as sons and daughters of God. Lord, hear us.

**R/** Lord, graciously hear us.

Saint Eugene called his companions to bind themselves to Christ in the consecrated life: let us pray that those who seek to live his charism may be faithful to their call, and prepare the way for others who would follow Jesus with a generous heart. Lord, hear us.

**R/** Lord, graciously hear us.

Saint Eugene had a tender love for the Virgin Mary and always prayed to her with confidence: let us pray that we may nurture a true devotion to this gentle Mother, and find in her constant strength, consolation and hope. Lord, hear us.

**R/** Lord, graciously hear us.

Saint Eugene sought continuously the will of God: let us pray that, following his example, we may always seek to discern the presence of God in the midst of our daily activities and that, even now, we may experience the fullness of our Savior's love for us. Lord, hear us.

**R/** Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray: God of all goodness, into your hands, we commend our prayers as we call upon the intercession of Saint Eugene de Mazenod. Grant that we may live and work solely for your glory and for the good of our brothers and sisters. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

### **Prayer over the offerings**

Accept, Father, the gifts we present to you on the feast of Saint Eugene, and enkindle the flame of your love in our hearts, so that our whole life may be one with this Eucharistic offering. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Preface**

*The presence of the holy pastors in the church*

**The Lord be with you.**

**R/ And with your spirit.**

**Lift up your hearts.**

**R/ We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**R/ It is right and just.**

**It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.**

**For, as on the festival of Saint Eugene  
you bid your Church rejoice,  
so, too, you strengthen her by the example  
of his holy life,  
teach her by his words of preaching,  
and keep her safe in answer to his prayers.**

**And so,  
with the company of Angels and Saints,  
we sing the hymn of your praise,  
as without end we acclaim:**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...**