

**NOVENA PRAYER FOR OBLATE VOCATIONS
WITH MARY IMMACULATE
21 – 29 MAY 2022**



"And a great sign appeared in heaven: A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Apoc. 12:1).

May 21, 2022

(Feast of Saint Eugene de Mazenod)

Hymn: To Mary or with a vocational or Oblate theme

Introduction:

In 1822, Six years after founding the Missionaries of Provence in 1816, Eugene was seriously concerned whether his missionary

group was God's project or just his own. He worried greatly about the future of his dear Society.

On the evening of August 15, 1822, after blessing the statue of Mary that we now refer to as the Oblate Madonna, the Founder wrote about a special experience with which he was graced.

We join together, all who live the Oblate charism, young people, Oblate Associates, Honorary Oblates and vowed Oblates, to commemorate this special experience. In a special way, during the last three days of this Novena for Oblate Vocations, we will join in the spirit and theme of the 2nd Oblate Lay Associations Congress: "To Celebrate; Connect; and to be Commissioned/Sent

During this period of novena prayer for Oblate Vocations, we are invited to gather as disciples of Jesus, with Mary in our midst as at the Cenacle, asking that the Holy Spirit will renew us all in our vocations and pray for new vocations to our Oblate family.

Scripture reading:

From the Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Meditation:

We attentively listen to the words penned by Fr. De Mazenod to Fr. Tempier on the evening of August 15, 1822.

"The ceremony has just finished, very dear and most good brother, silence reigns in the house. It is broken only by the sound of a distant bell which announces the departure of the great procession. Satisfied with the sincere tributes that we have just rendered to our good Mother, at the feet of the beautiful statue that we have installed as a souvenir of her in our church, I am letting the others take care of honoring her with the external pomp of a parade which would add nothing to my perhaps over-demanding piety. Let this interlude be used to converse with you, dear friend, in sweet outpouring of the heart. Would that I could share with you all that I experienced in the way of consolation on this beautiful day devoted to Mary our Queen!

"I had not felt for a long time as much joy in speaking of her grandeur and encouraging our Christians to put all their confidence in her, as during my instruction to the Sodality this morning. I can safely hope I was understood and I can well believe that all the faithful who came to our church this evening shared the fervor with which I was inspired at the sight of the statue of the Holy Virgin and greater still by the graces which she obtained from her divine Son, I dare say, while we were invoking her with so much affection, because she is our Mother. I believe I owe to her also a special experience that I felt today, I will not go so far as to say more than ever, but certainly more than usual. I cannot describe it too well because it comprised several things but all related, however, to a single object, our dear Society. It seemed to me that what I saw, what I could put my finger on, was that within her lies the germ of very great virtues, and that she can achieve infinite good; I found her worthy, everything pleased me about her, I cherished her rules, her statutes; her ministry seemed sublime to me, as it is indeed. I found in her bosom sure means of salvation, even infallible such is how they looked to me" (Selected Texts No. 98, pp 117-119).

Moment of silence

Spontaneous Prayers and Intentions

Concluding Prayer:

Mary Immaculate, we give thanks for your smile upon St. Eugene. You confirmed his missionary project as an apostolic body in the Church that would generate abundant fruit for the mission of God and become a community of holiness. We come before you today and ask your smile to bless our vocational efforts. Help us to create apostolic communities of joy, with a fraternal spirit that will attract young people to join us. Give us an authentic spirit of prayer that witnesses to the truth that God is all for us. As we persevere in prayer for vocations, help us to have the courage to invite young people to join our way of life. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, the Lord of the harvest. Amen.

Hymn to Our Lady