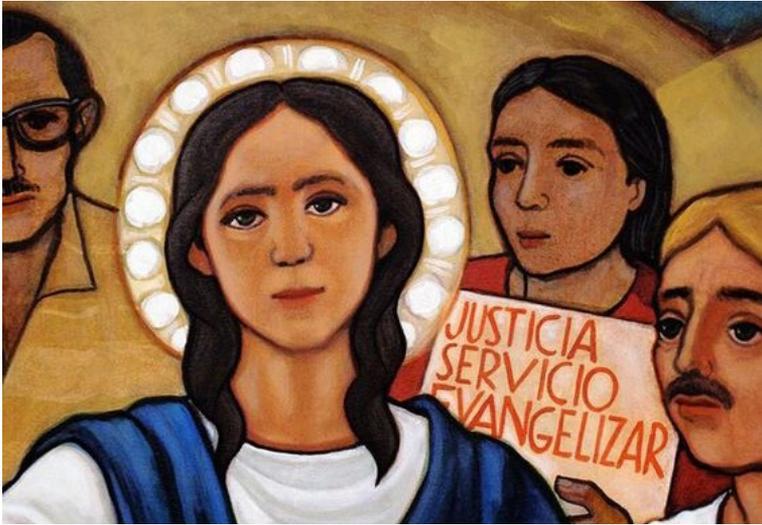


NOVENA PRAYER FOR OBLATE VOCATIONS WITH  
MARY IMMACULATE  
21 – 29 MAY 2022



*Mary journeys with the Poor: Justice – Service – Evangelization*

**May 22, 2022**

**Hymn:**

The Magnificat or another appropriate hymn

**Introduction:**

"Open to the Spirit, she consecrated herself totally as lowly handmaid to the person and work of the Savior" (OMI Constitution #10).

**Scripture reading:**

From the Gospel of St. Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

### **Meditation:**

"The angel came to a poor backwater place, Nazareth, to Mary, to the remnant of the people of David who were very poor. But it was a place where the dreams and promises were not forgotten...

"The prophets have always hinted that a certain people know where God hides out. They talk about specific groups of people mentioned in the holiness code of the Jewish Torah: the widows,

the orphans, the old, the illegal aliens in our midst, the migrants, the prisoners, the oppressed, and those bereft and alone. That is where God hides out. We lump them all together and call them "the poor." God hears their cry and bends down very close to them. God bends close to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds, who are all very poor. If God is going to come this year, it probably won't be to the great and the mighty. God will go---as always---to the people who already know God in the world. "The incarnation and annunciation say that God is hidden in us" (*Mary Shadow of Grace*, Megan McKenna, pp. 37-38).

### **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**