NOVENA PRAYER FOR OBLATE VOCATIONS WITH MARY IMMACULATE

21 – 29 MAY 2022

You are all beautiful, O Mary!

May 25, 2022

Hymn: Tota Pulchra Es O Maria or other

Scripture reading:

From the Gospel of St. Luke 2:22-35

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male
shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

Meditation:

As Father Fernand Jetté stated, the title of a religious family usually expresses its nature, essence and function. It really seems that the choice of the title “Missionary Oblates of the Most Holy and Immaculate Virgin Mary” must have been the culmination of a new and deeper insight into the mission of the Congregation on the part of Father de Mazenod. He discovered Mary as the person who was the most committed to the service of Christ, the poor and the Church and saw her as the most comprehensive model of apostolic life as required by his Congregation. In the letter he began to write
to Father Tempier on December 22, 1825, one is struck by two of his reflections: a certain fascination with the new title as well as a regret that he had not thought of it sooner. He seems to become aware of the fact that, even if he had always loved Mary, he had not yet understood the essential role she played in the plan of Redemption. In searching for the patron who best expressed the goal of his Congregation – that is a person walking in the footsteps of Christ, committed to the apostolate of service and to the instruction of the poor – he had not thought of Mary. While in Rome, he understood who Mary really was. The title of the Congregation was thus born from a discovery that, in order to respond in an authentic way to the urgent needs of the Church, its members should identify with Mary Immaculate “to offer themselves” to the service of God’s plan of salvation like she did.

(From Dictionary of Oblate Values, "Mary" by Kazimierz Lubowicki, OMI).

**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.

**Final hymn**