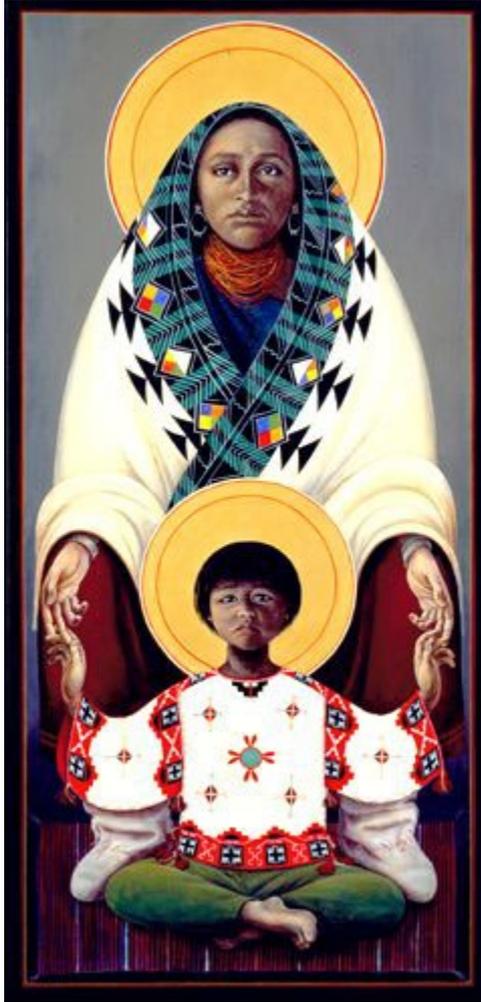


NOVENA PRAYER FOR OBLATE VOCATIONS WITH MARY
IMMACULATE

21 – 29 MAY 2022



Mary Immaculate, in her faith response and total openness to the call of the Spirit, is the model and guardian of our consecrated life. (C. 13)

May 26.2022

Hymn: Invoking the Holy Spirit

Introduction:

Before he called together priests to form a missionary society, Eugene de Mazenod reached out to young people and formed a sodality for them. He observed that the strategy of Napoleon was to remove young people from the values and influence of their families and the Church to be used for his military and political conquests. Eugene called youth together to strengthen the good values learned in the family and from the Church, offering them a community of prayer, formation and recreation.

Scripture reading:

From the Gospel of St. **John 2:1-11:**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this,

the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Meditation

Devotion to Mary was an integral component of the youth sodality:

"On April 25, 1813, Eugene founded the Association for Christian Youth, sixteen months after his ordination. The rules and statutes that he wrote are filled with Marian thinking. From the very first lines, it is stated that the society in question is one "established under the intercession of the Immaculate Conception of the most Holy Virgin". Eugene got his young people in the habit of seeing in Mary the Mother of Jesus and "ours as well", a mother filled with tenderness, who in virtue of this title desires "to cooperate in [our] salvation". In the Association, "public declaration was made to honor and love" Mary with "unbounded filial tenderness". There is a clear idea of what love is: the trust that leads to a total surrender of oneself into the hands of the person who is loved. That is why it states that the association members 'openly declare the most complete devotion [to Mary]'. " (*Dictionary of Oblate Values, 'Mary', 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.

Hymn in honor of Mary