

**NOVENA PRAYER FOR OBLATE VOCATIONS WITH MARY
IMMACULATE**

21 – 29 MAY 2022



But when the fullness of the time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law (Gal 4:4).

May 27.2022

Hymn

Introduction:

The Son of God was born of woman. Often in history, the image of woman has been associated with betrayal, seduction and blamed for evil in the world.

In Mary, God reveals that the body of a woman, a poor, young woman, has become the temple of God's presence, the dwelling-

place of holiness. God has signaled to all humanity the holiness of the human body, made in God's image and likeness.

Around the globe, Oblates collaborate with women in mission. St. Eugene had deep relationships with women. His grandmother, mother and sister were at the center of his life. The Duchess of Cannizzaro exerted a great influence on his affective life, his solicitude for the poor and his piety. He enjoyed relationships with common folk, such as Babette on the docks of Marseille, and with noble women such as Eugenie-Rose.

We are filled with a spirit of gratitude to God for the gift of vocations to the Oblate Family and for the tender presence of Mary Immaculate, our Patroness, among us. In this spirit of thanksgiving, we join together with all our Lay Associates, Oblate Youth and all who are connected to the Oblate Family around the world as the 2nd Oblate Lay Associations Congress begins today. We CELEBRATE the joy of participating in the same charism. Let us we ask for the fire and light of the Holy Spirit to inspire within us a greater commitment to answer God's call as St. Eugene did.

Scripture reading:

From the Gospel of St. Luke 2: 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Meditation:

From the Constitution 10: Mary Immaculate is patroness of our Congregation. Open to the Spirit, she consecrated herself totally as lowly handmaid to the person and work of the Saviour. She received Christ in order to share him with all the world, whose hope he is. In her, we recognize the model of the Church's faith and of our own. We shall always look on her as our mother. In the joys and sorrows of our missionary life, we feel close to her who is the Mother of Mercy. Wherever our ministry takes us, we will strive to instil genuine devotion to the Immaculate Virgin who prefigures God's final victory over all evil.

From the Constitution 13: Mary Immaculate, in her faith response and total openness to the call of the Spirit, is the model and guardian of our consecrated life.

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