

**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." (OMI CCRR # 13)

May 29, 2022

(Blessed Joseph Gerard)

Hymn: to Mary or with a vocational or Oblate theme

Introduction:

The Lord called Mary to embark on an adventure about which she knew nothing at all. She was called to be mother of His Son! However, she became not only the one who gave Him life but also his follower. All of us, vowed Oblates and lay people, living the

charism of Saint Eugene, are called to follow Jesus in his intimacy with the Father and his commitment to the Father's mission. On this final day of the 2nd Oblate Lay Associations Congress, we pray for all those who follow Jesus Christ according to the charism of Saint Eugene, that they may always remain ready to be commissioned as joyful witnesses of the Gospel of Christ.

Like Mary and Blessed Joseph Gerard, we too are sent out to continue living the Oblate charism. We pray that we will be empowered to live the charism with the passion, creativity and audacity of St. Eugene. May we be actively engaged in new and imaginative ways in the mission of God all around the world

Scripture reading:

From the Gospel of Matthew 12, 46-50

While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you."

He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

Meditation:

VOCATIONS: "Here is another major topic. Within a number of years, some provinces will disappear for lack of vocations.

Of course, it is God who calls, but if nobody among men makes himself God's echo, there won't be any vocations. A Provincial, every Provincial, must be actively interested in

vocations: first to have some aspirants, then to assure the discernment of their vocation, and finally to see that the candidates receive an excellent formation.

In the provinces that each year have a certain number of vocations, I notice three things: a deep belief in the values of Oblate life; there is Oblate work to offer the young who join us; there is a systematic and continual program for vocations." (The Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate, pp. 291-292)

"This call (to follow Christ) can take different forms, our words, our prayer, for example. First of all, it is 'through the joy and generosity of our lives' that others are drawn to answer that call. People see the way we live. If joy, peace, confidence and friendship are what radiate from our lives, they are interested and they approach us. 'Where do you live? 'Why this happiness among you?' 'Why this goodness which emanates from you?' ...They ask themselves these questions and one or another asks himself, 'Could I live in that way too?'" (*Jetté, O.M.I. The Apostolic Man, p. 287*)

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