

The members of the Oblate family connect with each other through this prayer on the third Sunday every month.

ORAISON

17th March 2024

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EVANGELIUM LIVE: John 12:20-33

If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit.

If I die, will it be of any use? Sounds a bit harsh, doesn't it? But it really is. This verse reminds me of my beginnings with oblates. At the very beginning there was another verse about dying ("No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13), but any other verse about dying always reminds me of it. It was then that I learned what it means to die daily for others in ordinary little ways, and I experienced that faith is not just something on the back of our lives, but that it can be something life-giving, something that transforms our lives.



I remember like it was yesterday when, over twelve years ago, my sister and I came back home from our first Oblate event and started doing the dishes and taking the trash out voluntarily without whining before our parents told us to do it. I understood that I do all this not because it is my duty, or to show that I am better than the other person, but because it is an opportunity to meet Jesus and because the other person is the most important for me at that moment. It is not that I have lived all the daily dying since then with enthusiasm, joy and no problems, I often struggle with them and fail. But I have experienced that even what is difficult for me, what I don't feel like doing and what I will do only with great effort, has a purpose - God can glorify His name.

St. Eugene de Mazenod in a letter to Fr. Jean-Francois Allard, 1847

Instead of murmuring, let each be concerned with his duty and confide himself to the goodness of God who never abandons us when we are what we should be. I like to repeat that we must comply with joy, happiness and the most entire surrender to the most holy will of God and cooperate with all our power in the accomplishing of His designs which can only be for the greater glory of His holy name and our own good.

John 12:20-33

Now there were some Greeks among those who had come up to worship at the feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we would like to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

“I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it and will glorify it again.” The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered and said, “This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

