



We are all
ministers of
the Mercy of God

Novena of Prayer For Oblate Vocations

The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate invite you from May 21st -29th to pray for vocations to Oblate Religious Life as priests, brothers and sisters. Each day we invite you to pray the Novena Prayer and entrust this intention to Mary Immaculate, patroness of the Oblate Family and to all Oblate Saints and Martyrs.

The format for each day is as follows:

- Scripture
- Oblate Call
- A text from “The Name of God is Mercy” by Pope Francis
- Pause for Silent prayer
- Prayer for Vocations

Prayer for Vocations (said together)

Loving God, You called St. Eugene to send forth missionaries to proclaim and live the Gospel among the poor. Increase our love, we pray, for those who are most abandoned. Extend your loving call to many young people in our community and grant them the desire to give of themselves, their lives and talents to the service of Jesus Christ and the Church. May our young people answer your call as Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate to serve those who are in need. This we ask through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary Immaculate *Pray for us*

St. Eugene *Pray for us*

Bl. Joseph Gerard *Pray for us*

Bl. Josef Cebula *Pray for us*

Bl. Oblate Martyrs of Spain *Pray for us*

21st May – Feast of St. Eugene de Mazenod, OMI

Scripture: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. (Ps 102)

Oblate Call: The call of Jesus Christ heard within the Church through the people's need for salvation, draws us together as Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Pope Francis: How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God. May the balm of mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign of that the Kingdom of God is already present in our midst!

22nd May – Attentive to the Poor

Scripture: What is man that you should keep him in mind, mortal man that you should care for him? Yet you have made him little less than a God with glory and honour you crown him. (Ps 8)

Oblate Call: Our first priority in mission is to be attentive to those on the margins of society and to those to whom the Church is most distant. "Who are you in the eyes of the world? ...Come and discover who you are in the eyes of God" (St. Eugene)

Pope Francis: At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives.

23rd May – Through Apostolic Community

Scripture: Good Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?...Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me. (Mark 10:17,21)

Oblate Call: The community of the Apostles with Jesus is the model of the Oblate Call. St. Eugene left a final bequest... "Among yourselves, charity, charity, charity and outside – zeal for the salvation of souls."

Pope Francis: The mercy of God is his loving concern for each one of us. He feels responsible; that is, he desires our wellbeing and he wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful.

24th May – Called to Evangelize

Scripture: The Lord has made known his salvation; he has shown his justice to the nations. (Ps 97)

Oblate Call: We preach the Gospel among people who have not yet received it and help them to see their own value in its light. Where the Church is already established our commitment is to those groups it touches least.

Pope Francis: Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life. All her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy. The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love.

25th May – Sharing our gifts together as an Oblate Family

Scripture: Anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:43-45)

Oblate Call: Many people recognise that they are Called to share in the Oblate charism according to their state of Call, and to live it in ways that vary according to milieu and culture.

Pope Francis: The time has come for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more. It is time to return to the basics and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters. Mercy is the force that awakens new life and instils in us the courage to look to the future with hope.

26th May – In communion with the Church

Scripture: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people at all and now you are the People of God; once you were outside the mercy and now you have been given mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Oblate Call: We must lead people to act like human beings first of all, and then like Christians and finally, we must help them to become saints.

Pope Francis: The Church is commissioned to announce the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel, which in its own way must penetrate the heart and mind of every person.

27th May – Blessed Josef Cebula, OMI (1902-1941) – Witnessing to Hope

Scripture: My dear people, you must not think it unaccountable that you should be tested... There is nothing extraordinary in what has happened to you. If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. (1 Peter 4:12-13)

Oblate Call: We are sustained by the unreserved gift of ourselves in our commitment to God, an offering constantly renewed by the challenges of our mission.

Pope Francis: We need to constantly contemplate the mystery of mercy. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever.

28th May – Mary Immaculate

Scripture: O God you are my God, for you my soul is thirsting. (Ps 62)

Oblate Call: Open to the Spirit, Mary consecrated herself totally to the person and work of the Saviour. She received Christ in order to share him with the world.

Pope Francis: Mary attests that the mercy of the Son knows no bounds and extends to everyone, without exception.

29th May – Blessed Joseph Gerard, OMI (1831-1914) – The Oblate Ideal

Scripture: Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the Kingdom of God... When the twelve came to him and said, 'Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms to find lodging and food. He replied, 'give them something to eat yourselves.' (Luke 9:11,13)

Oblate Call: Growing in faith, hope and love, we commit ourselves to be a leaven of the Beatitudes at the heart of the world.

Pope Francis: The Church feels the urgent need to proclaim God's mercy. Her life is authentic and credible only when she becomes a convincing herald of mercy. She knows that her primary task, especially at a moment of great hopes and signs of contradiction, is to introduce everyone to the great mystery of God's mercy by contemplating the face of Christ.