



Beyond Mission



WHO ARE THE OBLATES?

The word '**Oblate**' comes from the Latin word "Oblatus" – an offering, something offered up – and therefore dedicated to or set aside for some purpose. The Oblates of Mary Immaculate is a religious congregation of Priests and Brothers in the Catholic Church founded by the French Priest St Eugene De Mazenod, under the patronage of Mary Immaculate.

"We are a missionary Congregation. Our principal service in the Church is to proclaim Christ and his Kingdom to the most abandoned. We preach the Gospel among people who have not yet received it and help them see their own values in its light. Where the Church is already established, our commitment is to those groups it touches least." (Constitution & Rules 5)

The Oblates of Mary Immaculate came to Australia in 1894 and started their ministry at St Patrick's Fremantle, West Australia,

a parish they still care for. In Australia the Oblates care for 12 parishes as well as three Colleges for boys – Mazenod College, Mulgrave, Iona College, Brisbane and Mazenod College, West Australia and have a chaplaincy to St Eugene's College, Brisbane.

Oblates in Australia are involved in the formation of priests in Australia and for the region at St Mary's Seminary, in Victoria, they are also involved in University lecturing and a variety of chaplaincies to prisons, hospitals, colleges and youth ministry. Oblates are also engaged in outreach programs to the poor and homeless in Victoria and Queensland through the 'Rosies' organisation of volunteers.

Community life is an essential part of the Oblate way of life and through Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate (MAMI) the laity are invited to be part of this community and mission.

CHARISM

Throughout the history of the Church, and especially at moments of crisis in the world, God has called various people to respond in a particular way to that need. God gives a special gift to each of these persons for them to fulfill their mission – e.g Mary MacKillop and the crisis of education in Australia, Eugene de Mazenod when the Church had been destroyed in France. This initial response often becomes the founding charism. The word 'Charism' is related to many Greek terms, including charis (grace) and eucharistein (to give thanks).

In the broader sense it means 'gift' as used by St Paul in the letter to the Romans:

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.' (Rom 12:6-8).

Each Religious Congregation has a particular charism that is inspired by the founder and captured in their specific Constitution and Rules gifts of the Holy Spirit. Research first 10 constitutions and Rules of the Oblates: Link to Oblate website www.oblates.com.au



LINK TO
FURTHER
INFORMATION
www.oblates.com.au
www.omiworld.org

ACTIVITIES

- 1 Investigate, draw and label the uniform of an Oblate.
- 2 Draw and label an 'Oblate Cross'.
- 3 Describe the word 'Charism' to a 10 year old.

