

Life of St Eugene De Mazenod – DVD



Beyond Mission



“Go to Marseilles. There is a bishop there whose Congregation is still small, but the man himself has a heart as big as Saint Paul’s, as big as the world.” – fellow bishop speaking about Bishop de Mazenod.

At Eugene de Mazenod’s canonisation in December 1995, Pope John Paul II said of him: “His influence is not limited to the age in which he lived but continues its effect on our time... What Saint Eugene wanted to achieve was that, in Christ, each individual could become a fully complete person, an authentic Christian, a credible saint. The Church gives us this great Bishop and Founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate as an example of heroic faith, hope and charity.”

PRAYER



*Read this passage slowly, as a prayer.
Imagine St Eugene speaking to you.
Highlight your favourite line.*

“The world considers you the scum of society. It cannot bear to look at you, so it turns its back, lest it be moved to pity by your condition which it has no intentions of changing...Come now, and learn from us what you are in the eyes of faith...You are the children of God, the cherished portion of his inheritance...For once, let your eyes look inward and see through the rags you wear. There, within you, is an immortal soul, created to the image of God – a soul redeemed at the cost of the blood of Jesus Christ, more precious before God than all the riches of the world, than all the kingdoms of the earth... recognize your dignity.” – Excerpt from Lenten Sermon by St. Eugene de Mazenod, 1813 Christ had risen from the dead.

ACTIVITIES

View Part 1 of DVD – 16 min

We are going to watch the DVD “Heart as big as the world” in two parts. St Eugene’s charism is mentioned in this section of the DVD. A charism is a special grace given by the Holy Spirit to meet the needs of the church at a particular time.

This first part reflects on areas of St Eugene’s life which are concerned with his early years and ministry.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1 What are your first impressions upon watching the DVD?
- 2 How do you relate to what happened to St Eugene?
- 3 St Eugene worried that the Church would vanish.
What did St Eugene do to prevent the Church from vanishing?
Do you share these worries in today’s climate of faith?
Would it make a difference to you if the Church was to vanish?
- 4 St Eugene did not believe that anyone was beyond saving.
How did he witness to this belief in his life?
How have I reached out to the poor or lonely or thought about reaching out to them?

View Part 2 of DVD – 16 min

This Part continues journeying with St Eugene as he establishes his various mission, and the difficulties he encounters with both the Church and State authorities. He is made Vicar General and then Bishop and we learn how it takes him to new frontiers and new challenges.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

St Eugene came to understand that he could not respond to the call of Christ alone.

- 1 What was St Eugene’s response?
- 2 Who in your life has affected your call to Christ?
- 3 Where do you presently find support for your response to Christ’s call?