



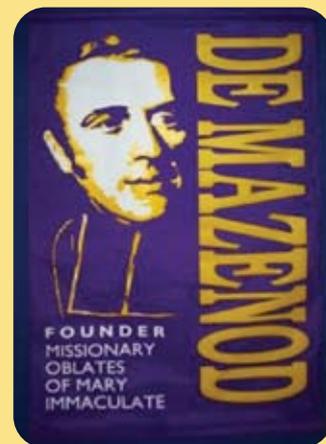
# MY CALL. MY JOURNEY.

A newsletter of the Vocations Co-ordinator of the  
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Volume 3. No.1 2012

St Eugene de Mazenod and a few companions on 25th January 1816, the "Feast of the Conversion" of St Paul, formed a religious family to be known as THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE.

Eugene wanted the Oblates to be passionate about bringing people to find their fulfilment in Christ. They must love the people they serve. Faced with the aftermath of the French Revolution they were to help restore the Church in France. Eventually they would also be called to help build the CHURCH 'in lands beyond their shores.' Today these Oblates, Priests and Brothers together with Lay Cooperators are in 67 countries.



## Young men like you! The Oblate Spanish Martyrs

To be a Missionary is to face the challenges of the 'Times' for Christ.  
WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE MISSIONARIES through our Baptism.

**Meet them!**



In 1936 Spain was experiencing a Civil War which challenged the Christian foundations upon which their nation was built. On July 20, 1936, the socialist and communist youth took to the streets of Madrid and set about destroying churches and convents. In Pozuelo, a suburb of Madrid they attacked the chapel, parish church and the seminary of the OBLATES. Thirty eight Oblates were arrested. Twenty two of Oblates were taken and shot. They were killed because they were helping the local people grow in their relationship with Christ. Thousands of Priests, Brothers, Sisters and Lay people were killed throughout Spain. Many have been recognised as martyrs by the Church and many more will be. On 17th December 2011 the Church declared "Blessed" this group of twenty three of whom twenty two were Oblates. They are 'martyrs for the cause of Jesus Christ'. Eighteen of the twenty two were between 18-30 years old.

In this edition of MY CALL. MY JOURNEY, you are invited to look at these men. Maybe your CALL is to be a PRIEST OR BROTHER AS A MISSIONARY OBLATE.



**JUAN ANTONIO PÉREZ MAYO**  
29 year old Priest

“He was full of life, with a contagious enthusiasm. It did not take him long to win the esteem and appreciation of his students”

**PUBLIO RODRÍGUEZ MOSLARES**  
In perpetual vows - 24 years old.



**Writing to his mother:** “It is God who wants it, mama; do not be sad and don’t make me sad. Be generous and give back to God the one who was His before being yours.”



**GREGORIO ESCOBAR GARCÍA**  
Newly ordained Priest - 24 years old.

“I’ve always been deeply moved by stories of martyrdom. That would be the greatest priesthood to which all of us Christians could aspire. What an honour, to die as a martyr!”

**CLEMENTE RODRÍGUEZ TEJERINA**  
18 years old.



“I asked (my brother Clemente) how he was holding up and he replied: ‘We are in danger and we are afraid they will separate us; we encourage one another. However, I am ready and I am sure that God will give us the strength we need to be faithful.’”



**MANUEL GUTIÉRREZ MARTÍN**  
Perpetual vows – sub-deacon  
23 years old

“Man of piety, open mind, a dedicated religious.”

**FRANCISCO ESTEBAN LACA**  
Provincial  
48 years old.



# The Year of Faith

**Oct 2012 till Nov 2013**  
('Feast of Christ the King')



Pope Benedict frequently reminds us of the dangers to our civilization from those who promote the extremes of secularism and deny the role of religions, especially Christianity, in promoting human growth and fulfillment. For this reason he invites us to embrace the 'Year of Faith.'

"For her part, the Church ... in season and out of season, proclaims a Gospel which not only proposes unchanging moral truths but proposes them precisely as the key to human happiness and social prospering." Pope Benedict XVI

Speaking to the Australian Bishops during their recent visit to Rome, Pope Benedict said:

**“It is urgent to ensure that all those entrusted to your care understand, embrace and propose their Catholic faith intelligently and willingly to others.”**

“The great challenge for us is to become a more missionary Church,” said Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Canberra in a recent interview.

“Our parish communities have to become not just pastoral centers but evangelizing centers,” the Archbishop said, suggesting that now is not the time to “circle the wagons” but “roll the wagons out into new territory.”

Pope Benedict pointed Australian Catholics to Saint Mary MacKillop’s “courageous response” to the difficulties she faced and said it should inspire them “as they confront the new evangelization and serious challenges to the spread of the Gospel in society as a whole.”



**CÁNDIDO CASTÁN SAN JOSÉ**  
Layman, husband, father of two children aged 15 and 8.  
A militant Catholic - 42 years old

“Coherent Christian, President of the National Confederation of Catholic Workers. He was executed with the first group of Oblates.”

**CECILIO VEGA DOMÍNGUEZ**  
Sub-deacon - 23 years old.

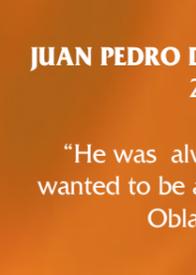


“A man of few words, but a great worker and helpful companion.”



**FRANCISCO POLVORINOS GÓMEZ**  
26 years old

“Firm and consistent in his vocation, despite the initial opposition of his family.”



**JUAN PEDRO DEL COTILLO FERNÁNDEZ**  
22 years old.

“He was always willing to help. He wanted to be a missionary like the other Oblates of his town”



**JUSTO GONZÁLEZ LORENTE**  
Temporary vows -21 years old.

“Helpful and a friend to all, he was preparing himself, spiritually and intellectually, with great enthusiasm to be a missionary.”

**PASCUAL ALÁEZ MEDINA**  
19 years old



“He was kind and trusting. No one could imagine him hurting anyone.”



**VINCENTE BLANCO GUADILLA**  
Superior  
54 years old

**“Lord, which path will allow me to shine brightest for you at this time?”**

A simple prayer for discernment.



**JOSÉ VEGA RIAÑO**

Priest  
32 years old.

“An approachable person, excellent professor and zealous priest.”



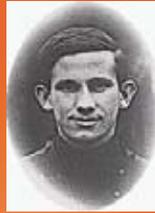
**ELEUTERIO PRADO VILLARROEL**  
Vocation to Brotherhood - 21 years.

“From childhood he wanted to follow in the footsteps of his missionary brother. A skilled carpenter, he was always cheerful, helpful and encouraging.”

**MARCELINO SÁNCHEZ FERNÁNDEZ**

Vocation to Brotherhood - 26 years old

Busy with multiple chores, hardworking and gentle with everyone. Devoted to praying the Rosary.



**JUAN JOSÉ CABALLERO RODRÍGUEZ**

About to be ordained a Priest  
24 years old.

“He had a great missionary enthusiasm, which spread to his companions.”



**JUSTO GIL PARDO**  
Ordained sub-deacon  
26 years old.

“Holiness does not have to be in conflict with joy”

**We are all called!**



We are all CALLED to be active in the mission of Christ in the world. Let each of us with courage and generosity respond to the CALL to be missionaries in the Church. Maybe your CALL is to be a Priest, Brother or Lay Co-operator as a Missionary

Oblate of Mary Immaculate or if you would just like to know more about us, do not hesitate to contact me

**Fr John Sherman OMI**  
**PO Box 286, Mulgrave Vic 3170.**  
**Mobile 0418825701**  
**jsherman@oblates.com.au.**

The Oblates regularly conduct discernment evenings and weekends to provide opportunities for those seeking to serve the mission of the Church in Australia and ‘lands beyond our shores’ in the spirit of St Eugene de Mazenod. If you are interested in attending, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Fr John.



**SERVILIANO RIAÑO HERRER**  
20 years old.

“Brilliant in his studies, always smiling, outgoing and cheerful, willing to be sent to any mission.”



**JUSTO FERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ**  
In temporary vows - 20 years old.

“He came into the world to be holy and never lost sight of that goal. A many with an intense prayer life, a noble heart, kind, peaceful and a peacemaker.”



**JOSÉ GUERRA ANDRÉS**  
22 years old.

“Young, peaceful and friendly, always willing to make available to all his skill with the paint brushes.”



**DANIEL GÓMEZ LUCAS**  
20 years old.

‘Tenacious in cultivating the spiritual and intellectual life. Good athlete, optimistic and confident, always in good humour.’



**ÁNGEL FRANCISCO BOCOS HERNÁNDEZ**  
Vocation to Brotherhood - 53 years old.

He spent his youth in various Oblate communities in France. Excellent cook, always helpful, self-sacrificing and pious