



MY CALL. MY JOURNEY.

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

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ADVENT 2010



This is an interesting time of the year. Students finishing off college or university are launching into a new experience of life. Most of us look back on a year of varied fortunes and move forward hopefully with a recharging break.

For many it is a time for a fresh start. It is a time to face the question:

“Why am I doing what I am doing?”

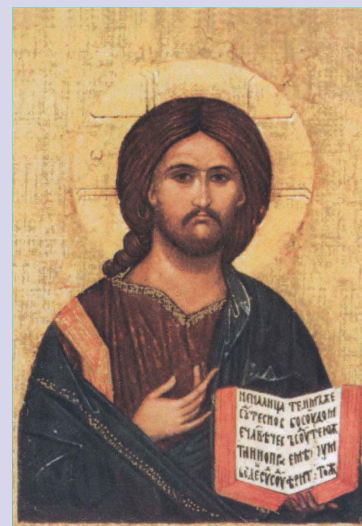
Almost parallel with the calendar year runs the Church's year. It is called the Liturgical Year. Through the celebration of the events in Christ's life we are invited to grow in our relationship with Him so that as the end of the year approaches we challenge ourselves with the questions:



- Have I grown as a Christian?
- Do people see Christ in me by how I live?
- Do I seek to do God's will?
- Do I believe that God has given me a CALLING to make this world a better place?

‘Whoever does the Will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.’

Matthew 12:50



Above is an image of Christ our Saviour. It is a 16th century Icon known as 'The Moscow Christ our Saviour'. I have carried it with me and shared it with thousands of people over many years. The strength of Christ's face initially drew me to it.

Recently I discovered that most icons of this tradition have Christ blessing people, but here Christ is pointing to Himself. He is the Blessing given to us. Naturally this realisation has further endeared this icon to me.

Small copies can be obtained free from:

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Seeking God's Will in our lives is the secret to our fulfilment and experiencing that 'peace which only Christ can give'.

“Never see a need without trying to do something about it.”

St. Mary of the Cross

The Icon of St Mary MacKillop in the Basilica of St Patrick, Fremantle captures the action and the spirit of Mary of the Cross who despite trials and challenges was a person committed to the living out of God's Will in her life.



“Never see a need without trying to do something about it” was Mary’s advice to her Sisters. This is the background to Mary’s outreach. She said:

“Have courage and pray earnestly” (1883).

“Let no obstacle deter us from proceeding with courage” (1893).

“I will not shrink from any cross or trial.”

St Eugene de Mazenod, Founder of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate was fired with the same spirit. He told his Oblates ‘Leave nothing undared for the Kingdom of God’.

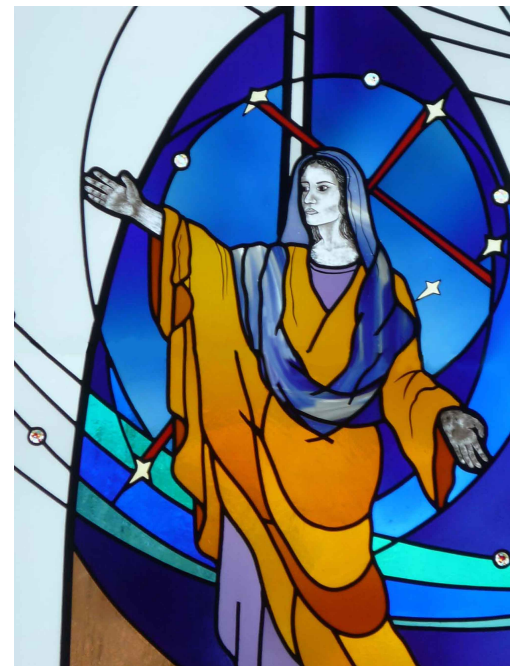
We are all CALLED to make this world a better place. The journey of our life needs to be a response to God’s CALL. St Eugene would say:

“Learn whom you are in the eyes of God.”

The image of ‘Mary of the Southern Cross’ in both the Oblate Seminary and the Provincial House captures the dynamic action of Mary the woman filled with the Holy Spirit. She is the One who could say:

*“Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be done with me
according to your word”*

Luke 1:38



Maybe you are CALLED to help make CHRIST more present in our Australian Secular Society or to ‘Lands beyond our Shores’ as a PRIEST OR BROTHER in the MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE?

Why not make this your challenge for the end 2010 flowing through to 2011 – to discern if this is your CALLING?

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or your nearest Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate Community.