

Hope from the Word of God

Isaiah 40 31 but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

1 Peter 13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

Rom 5: 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Pope Francis *Fratelli Tutti*

I invite everyone to renewed hope, for hope "speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart, independently of our circumstances and historical conditioning. Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfilment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love... Hope is bold; it can look beyond personal convenience, the petty securities and compensations which limit our horizon, and it can open us up to grand ideals that make life more beautiful and worthwhile". Let us continue, then, to advance along the paths of hope. [FT55]

Simplicity and Obedience

Fr General, in his inaugural homily, as he began his ministry of service to all of us in the Congregation, reminded us of the need and importance of simplicity. "We have to be close to the poor, becoming first poor ourselves. To be honest and be ourselves". Fr Chicho then expressed his desire that we Oblates realise that we, by our life and service, wherever we are called to be through obedience, should become sacraments of the God of Love for the poor and with the poor. Through the witness of the simplicity of our lives, through how we love and by our Gospel obedience.

St Eugene writes:

"I am a sinner, I know that. I think of what I am in the eyes of God. I admire his goodness, the patience with which he has awaited me. My excess of ingratitude leaves me in a state of confusion which is difficult to explain"

(Retreat Notes, December 1-21, 1811)

"I have meditated on the use I make of creatures. I have no hesitation in seeing that I have been abusive in this respect, at least up to the time of my conversion. Far from using them for the purpose for which they were intended, I have made them serve my own ends, I have been concerned only with using them and taking pleasure in them"

(Retreat Notes, December 1-21, 1811)

"This morning, before receiving Communion, I dared to speak to my good Master with the same abandon as I would have done if I had the happiness of living while he was on this earth, and I was in the same predicament as I am today...I made known my needs, I asked for light and assistance, and then I abandoned myself entirely to the Lord, not wishing for anything other than God's holy will... I was at ease, I was happy, I felt loving and grateful"

(Letter to Fr Tempier 23rd August 1830)

"I do all that I have to do. God will do the rest. We live only for him..." (Letter to Fr Tempier 10th June 1826)

"We are the ministers of Christ's mercy. Let us always have the heart of a father...We in our ministry must not only reconcile sinners, we must admit them to the sacred banquet. We must give them the bread of life so that their lives may be renewed"

(Letter to Fr Guigues 8th February 1837)

Fr. Jette tells us that The Founder's outstanding characteristics are; a strong integrated personality which had undergone an experience of Jesus Christ in his personal life, and of Christ's love for people. His radical choice for Jesus!

An Invitation

Go to your room and be quiet for some time - becoming aware of the presence of God.

Reflect on St Eugene's relationship with Jesus and reflect on your own relationship with Jesus.

Do you feel the gaze of Jesus as loving, remote or judgmental?
Do you see yourself as loving, remote or judgmental?

St Eugene often wrote much in his diary. He also wrote retreat notes, homily notes and letters which have given us an insight into his life and relationship with Jesus.

I invite you, if you don't already do so, to write a retreat note today that describes the genuine sentiments of your heart in regard to your faith in Jesus, your life and your mission.



OMI Lacombe

Retreat

24th – 28th April 2023

Queen of Apostles Retreat Centre, Mississauga, ON

*Oblate Perseverance – Continuing to be Pilgrims of Hope
in Communion*

Hope and Simplicity

