

"I find things so worrisome that I have reached the point of no longer having the inner peace which should be my consolation and my happiness. If that is how things are, then what good can I do others? I merely work like a machine in matters that concern me personally...It seems I only love God in fits and starts. I pray badly, meditate badly, prepare badly for Holy Mass, I say it badly".

St Eugene's retreat notes from 1818

Bernard Dullier, OMI tells us that, during his long life, Eugene had to run the risk of his faithfulness to God and the mission brought about by the ordinariness of everyday life. Three years after his ordination, his activities were crowding in upon him and his impassioned love for human beings tended to make him overlook the real reason for which he had developed this love: his headlong love of God and for God. When he found time to take stock of the situation, he realised that his accounts needed balancing, because, "by working too much for others, he has been too forgetful of himself and he has almost neglected his spiritual life".

"You need to have only one word left in your spiritual vocabulary - Gratitude! But it is necessary to add that the fruit of that maturity is forgiveness.

Gratitude underpins genuine virtue, it is the real basis for holiness and the source of love itself. And its major fruit is forgiveness.

Forgiveness underpins genuine religion and morality. To age into and die with a forgiving heart is the ultimate moral and religious imperative."

Ron Rolheiser - Wrestling with God

Obedience

Our authority is Jesus and his Gospel, and our obedience is to God's will:

Our Constitutions consistently point to this fact:

"Our Lord Jesus Christ... "

"The Church, that glorious inheritance purchased by Christ..."

"The call of Jesus Christ heard within the Church..."

"We achieve unity in our life only in and through Jesus Christ..."

"Jesus personally formed the disciples he had chosen, initiating them into 'the mystery of the Kingdom of God' (Mk 4: 11)

"Jesus is the source and model of authority in the Church..."

"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ... Formula of the vows,

"Jesus Christ is the centre of our life and mission..."

Words written in a book are only words unless we give meaning and purpose to them for ourselves!

Evangelization takes place in obedience to the missionary mandate of Jesus: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Mt 28:19-20). In these verses we see how the risen Christ sent his followers to preach the Gospel in every time and place, so that faith in him might spread to every corner of the earth.

Both Sides Now – Joni Mitchell

Rows and floes of angel hair
And ice cream castles in the air
And feather canyons everywhere
I've looked at clouds that way

But now they only block the sun
They rain and snow on everyone
So many things I would have done
But clouds got in my way

I've looked at clouds from
both sides now
From up and down, and still somehow
It's cloud illusions I recall
I really don't know clouds at all

Moons and Junes and Ferris wheels
The dizzy dancing way you feel
As every fairy tale comes real
I've looked at love that way

But now it's just another show
You leave 'em laughing when you go
And if you care, don't let them know
Don't give yourself away

I've looked at love from
both sides now
From give and take, and still somehow
It's love's illusions I recall
I really don't know love at all

Tears and fears and feeling proud
To say "I love you" right out loud
Dreams and schemes and
circus crowds
I've looked at life that way

But now it's just another show
You leave 'em laughing when you go
And if you care, don't let them know
Don't give yourself away

I've looked at love from both sides now
From give and take, and still somehow
It's love's illusions I recall
I really don't know love at all

Tears and fears and feeling proud
To say "I love you" right out loud
Dreams and schemes and circus
crowds
I've looked at life that way

But now old friends are acting strange
They shake their heads, they say I've
changed
Well something's lost, but something's
gained in living every day

I've looked at life from both sides now
From win and lose and still somehow
It's life's illusions I recall
I really don't know life at all

I've looked at life from both sides now
From up and down and still somehow
It's life's illusions I recall
I really don't know life at all



OMI Lacombe

Retreat

24th – 28th April 2023

Queen of Apostles Retreat Centre, Mississauga, ON

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

Gratitude

