



IN THE SPIRIT OF EUGENE

“Seeking First the Kingdom of God”

Constitution 11

Our mission is to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to seek it before all else. We fulfil this mission in community; and our communities are a sign that, in Jesus, God is everything for us. Together we await Christ’s coming in the fullness of his justice so that God may be all in all.

Growing in faith, hope and love, we commit ourselves to be a leaven of the Beatitudes at the heart of the world. (c 11).

Introduction

Constitution 11 captures the very heart of our Oblate vocation: to proclaim and embody the Kingdom of God through our communal life and missionary presence. It reminds us that our mission is not merely about activity or achievement but about witnessing together — that *God is everything for us*. Our life in community becomes a living proclamation of the Gospel, a visible sign that the Kingdom is already among us, though not yet complete. This Constitution calls us to live as a leaven of the Beatitudes in today’s world — small, hidden at times, yet transformative — allowing God’s love, justice, and peace to rise within human history.

Scriptural Passage - Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one’s need.

Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The first Christian community devoted itself to prayer, the Word, fellowship, and the breaking of bread. Their unity and joy made the Gospel visible.

Like those early believers, Oblates live and work together so that our communion becomes mission. Our shared prayer, table, and service reveal God’s Kingdom already among us. When we live with “joyful and generous hearts,” our communities become what the Founder dreamed — a living witness of faith, hope, and love at the heart of the world.



IN THE SPIRIT OF EUGENE

Message from Saint Eugene de Mazenod

Saint Eugene's vision echoes strongly here. He wrote in his 1818 Preface to the Constitutions:

"They must strive to become saints... to work seriously to become another Jesus Christ, spreading the Kingdom of God in hearts."

Eugene saw community not as a convenience but as the very means of mission. It is in our life together that we reveal what we preach — that Christ reigns in our hearts, and that love, forgiveness, and unity are possible. The Founder insisted that the Oblate community be a *sign of the presence of the Kingdom* — a prophetic witness that the Gospel transforms relationships and gives hope.

Reflection

Constitution 11 invites us to see our lives as a bridge between heaven and earth. In a fragmented and competitive world, our communities should radiate hope — a hope rooted in the promise that God's Kingdom is already growing, even in weakness and smallness. To be a "leaven of the Beatitudes" is to live joyfully and humbly, trusting that mercy, poverty of spirit, and peace have transforming power. Our witness begins not in our words, but in the way we live together, forgive one another, and put God first. As we grow in faith, hope, and love, we become a foretaste of the Kingdom we proclaim.

Questions for Personal Reflection and Sharing

1. What does it mean for me personally to *seek the Kingdom of God before all else*?
2. How do I see our community as a sign that *God is everything for us*?
3. In what ways are we, as Oblates, a *leaven of the Beatitudes* in the world today?
4. Where do I see signs of the Kingdom growing in my ministry and in the lives of those I serve?
5. How can we renew our communal life so that it more clearly points to the joy and justice of God's Kingdom?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus,

You have called us to seek first the Kingdom of God and to make You the center of our lives. Strengthen our faith, hope, and love, so that our communities may truly reveal that You are everything for us.

Make us a leaven of the Beatitudes in the heart of the world — gentle in service, joyful in hope, and steadfast in communion.

May all we do and all we are lead others to You, until God is all in all.

Amen.