



IN THE SPIRIT OF EUGENE

“The Evangelical Counsels: Source of Community and Mission”

Constitutions 12 & 13

C 12 - *Our mission requires that, in a radical way, we follow Jesus who was chaste and poor and who redeemed mankind by his obedience. That is why, through a gift of the Father, we choose the way of the evangelical counsels.*

Community is the life-giving reality fashioned by the vows which binds us in love to the Lord and to his people. Thus, we become a living cell in the Church in which we strive together to bring the grace of our Baptism to its fullness.

C 13 - *Mary Immaculate, in her faith response and total openness to the call of the Spirit, is the model and guardian of our consecrated life.*

Introduction

These two Constitutions remind us of what our Oblate life is all about.

We follow Jesus — poor, chaste, and obedient — not because it’s easy, but because it’s the way He loved. The vows we make are gifts from God. They help us stay free for His mission and close to His people.

Our community life grows from these vows. We live not for ourselves, but together as brothers, joined by love for Christ. When people see our unity, they can see something of God’s love in us.

Mary Immaculate shows us how to live this life. Her heart was open to God; she said “yes” to His plan, even when she didn’t understand everything. Mary teaches us trust, joy, and the courage to keep saying “yes” each day.

Scripture Passage - Luke 1:38

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

Mary’s words are the perfect picture of consecrated life. She gave herself completely to God, just as Jesus did. Her “yes” is the pattern for ours.



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Message from Saint Eugene de Mazenod

Saint Eugene's own words show his deep conviction that consecration and mission go hand in hand:

"We must strive to make ourselves saints. Let us be what we are called to be—co-operators of the Saviour, the true imitators of Jesus Christ." — *Preface to the Constitutions and Rules (1826)*

He also turned our eyes toward Mary as our example:

"Let us look upon Mary Immaculate as our model and our patroness. Let us seek to reproduce in ourselves her virtues and her love for Jesus Christ." — *Retreat Notes, 1825*

For Eugene, living the vows was never about limits—it was about freedom and love. When we live them joyfully, others can see Christ through us.

Questions for Reflection

1. What helps me follow Jesus in a simple and trusting way?
2. How do my vows help me love others more freely?
3. What can I learn from Mary's "yes" to God?
4. How can I show joy in my consecrated life, so others see God's love?

Closing Prayer

Loving God,

You called us to follow your Son, Jesus, who lived poor, chaste, and obedient out of love for you. Help us to live our vows with joy and trust.

Make our communities places of kindness and faith, where your love is easy to see.

Mary Immaculate, our Mother, teach us how to say "yes" like you did— with open hearts and generous spirits.

Amen.