EUGENE DE MAZENOD 101-presentation 11

PRAYER USED BY ST. EUGENE BEFORE MEDITATION:

O Mary Immaculate, faithful adorer of the Father, Mother most admirable of the Son, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, inspire within me the same sentiments that were yours while pondering the revealed mysteries which you treasured in your heart. Grant that I may ever live in union with your Son, my Saviour, together with all who, by meditation, give honor to the most Holy Trinity. Amen.

PRESENTATION 11: THE MAZENODIAN FAMILY THREATENED

1/ Eugene had to endure much suffering for the good of the Missionaries, just like any parent who makes sacrifices for the welfare of a child. He was never happier than when he was with his Missionaries and actively preaching the Gospel to the most abandoned. Yet he sacrificed all this to take on an administrative work among people who did not want him and whose lifestyle and way of thinking he had to reform - at heavy personal consequences for him. He did this to ensure the security and future of the Missionaries.

> I was received as a foreign invader, though I arrived hands filled with blessings and the spirit full of grace-inspired projects, all more useful, more advantageous, more necessary, one than the other, for the spiritual welfare and happiness of this city and of the whole diocese"

It was his conviction of God's faithfulness that gave him the strength to persevere.

> No matter; have God alone before us, the honour of his Church, the salvation of the souls entrusted to us; consult only the divine Wisdom, trample on human wisdom, and God will be our help.
>
> But one must have much virtue to sacrifice one's peace for one's duty, to face the hatred and persecution of men precisely so as to do good for men. This virtue is acquired and conserved only by union with God, prayer and meditation, etc., walking always before God and keeping one's eyes on heaven alone and its rewards which are none other than God himself. Lord! Grant me the grace of being ever more deeply imbued with these thoughts! (Retreat notes, May 1824,)

Not only did he achieve this for them, but he was eventually successful in his goals for the diocese and achieved much.

⇒ **Recall some of the sacrifices you have been called to make for the welfare of others? How did God help you?**

2/ Saint Eugene described his experience in front of the statue of Mary Immaculate, on 15 August 1822:

> I can safely hope I was understood and I can well believe that all the faithful who came to our church this evening shared the fervor with which I was inspired at the sight of the statue of the Holy Virgin and greater still by the graces which she obtained from her divine Son, I dare say, while we were invoking her with so much affection, because she is our Mother. I believe I owe to her also a special experience that I felt today...

Mary made him understand that her Son was pleased with the Missionaries and had given them a sure way of salvation. In the Visitation to Elizabeth, Mary had brought the same assurance to Elizabeth in Luke 1: 41-47.

> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior"

⇒ **How does Mary visit us in the joys and sorrows of our life?**

Concluding Prayer: ***From Charles de Foucauld***

Father,
I abandon myself into your hands;
do with me what you will.
Whatever you may do, I thank you:
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your will be done in me,
and in all your creatures –
I wish no more than this, O Lord.
Into your hands I commend my soul:
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,
for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands without reserve,
and with boundless confidence,
for you are my Father.