EUGENE DE MAZENOD 101

Presentation 15

LEAVING NOTHING UNDARED WITH A HEART AS BIG AS THE WORLD

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.

1/ Eugene was described as having a "heart as big as the world!" He had many dreams and desires to make Jesus Christ known as Savior throughout the world. He had to learn to "wait for the hour of God" which came initially through two providential figures.

⇒ **Who have been some of the providential figures in your life? People whom you recognized as having been sent by God to bring you closer to God. Recall and give thanks.**

2/ "Foreign Missionaries" - I think that we have all met missionaries who have ministered in countries outside of our own. They always have interesting things to share with us on their experiences.

⇒ **Spend some time thinking about some of those you have met and how their experiences and example have enriched you.**

3 / The first Oblate missionaries abroad experienced the joys and anguishes of mission just like St. Paul:

> *If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!!* (1 Corinthians 9 :16)
>
> *Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong* (2 Corinthians 12:10)

⇒ **Reflect on the joys and sorrows of your personal mission in living your faith, and of witnessing it to others. What encourages you in the proclamation of the Gospel? Where do you find strength in weaknesses?**

4 / In the Rule of 1853 we read:

> *Whoever wants to be one of us must **burn** with desires for his own perfection, be **inflamed** with love for Our Lord Jesus Christ and his Church, and with **ardent** zeal for the salvation of souls.*

- **How do the words of St. Eugene inspire you to live the "fire" of your relationship with God, our Mazenodian charism and the mission of your local faith community?**

Concluding Prayer :

God our Father,

we thank you for having called Saint Eugene de Mazenod

to follow Christ the Saviour and Evangelizer.

Passionately in love with your Son Jesus

and sharing in his compassion for humanity

Eugene put himself unconditionally at the service of your Church

for the evangelization of those most in need.

Through his intercession, help us to reach out with the healing touch of Christ

who calls us to holiness and to mission.

May we build communities which are signs of your presence,

and share the Good News of salvation with all peoples.

For this we dedicate ourselves, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Saint Eugene de Mazenod, Share with us your love for Christ.

Saint Eugene de Mazenod, Help us to stand firm in goodness.

Saint Eugene de Mazenod, Be with us in all our efforts.

Saint Eugene de Mazenod, pray for us.