

EUGENE DE MAZENOD 101-presentation 3



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 3: THE DISCOVERY BY A DIRECTIONLESS YOUNG MAN OF THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST AS HIS SAVIOR

1. Reflecting on these texts below, what do they say to you about the directions to which God's compass has been leading you?

Philippians 3:7-11

But whatever gains I had, these I have come to consider a loss because of Christ. More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God, depending on faith to know him and the power of his resurrection and (the) sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Eugene's 1814 Retreat (refer to the full text in the "Further Reading" document):

I looked for happiness outside of God and for too long with resulting unhappiness...So I had looked for happiness outside of God, and outside him I found but affliction and chagrin.

Eugene's 1811 Retreat (refer to the full text in the "Further Reading" document). During this retreat, Eugene applied the parable of the prodigal son to himself:

No, he had to come to me himself, thus crowning his gifts, to lift me up, and rescue me all heedless as I was, or rather he had to come and get me out of the mire in which I was immersed and from which I could not extract myself unaided. I hardly ever even conceived the wish to leave aside my rags and put on again my nuptial robe. O blindness! Forever blessed, O my God, be the sweet violence that in the end you did to me! Without this master-stroke, I would still be wallowing in my sewer or perhaps have perished there; and in that case, what would have become of my soul? O my God, don't I have every reason to devote myself entirely to your service, to offer you my life and all that I am, so that all that is in me may be employed and spent for your glory? For by

how many titles do I belong to you? Not only are you my Creator and Redeemer, as you are all men's, but you are my special benefactor and applied your merits in an altogether special way to me; my generous friend, you forgot all my acts of ingratitude to help me as powerfully as if I had been always faithful to you; my tender father, who carried this rebel on your shoulders, warmed him against your heart, washed his wounds, etc. Good God, merciful Saviour, a thousand lives employed in your service, sacrificed to your glory, would be the least compensation your justice would be entitled to demand of me.

2. In 1805, while traveling to Paris, he had met a young military surgeon, Emmanuel Gaultier de Claubry, and became friends until Emmanuel's death in 1855. They shared with each other what God had been doing in their lives.

Letter to Emmanuel Gaultier de Claubry, December 23, 1807 (refer to the full text in the "Further Reading" document):

Next, I want to know everything about your combat, I mean the life you lead surrounded by the enemies of your salvation, what you are doing for God, but especially what God is doing for you...

A sharing of our experiences of God brings Christians to a deeper communion of life in Christ.

Sweet effects of charity amongst Christians, which brings it about that all the members of the mystical body of which Jesus Christ is head, caput, feel and participate in the sufferings as well as the victory that each member suffers or wins.

How does the sharing of experiences with the community of which I am a part, bring about a deeper understanding of our common journey and of what God is doing?

3. 1 John 1:1-3:

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life - for the life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us - what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Conversion is a gradual process which sheds a new light and understanding on our actions. Eugene was involved in many actions to help others. His Good Friday experience gave him a new perspective to continue what he was doing, but with a different viewpoint. What he was doing became mission when he saw it through the eyes of the crucified Christ.

How does looking through the eyes of the Crucified Savior help us, as community, to focus more on the mission of Jesus Christ?

Concluding Prayer: (By Thomas Merton)

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.