EUGENE DE MAZENOD 101
PRESENTATION 6 : DARING TO BE FORMED INTO A BELOVED DISCIPLE
"Daring to Share an Experience of God with Others"

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/ Having discerned his vocation, Eugene spent over three years at the Seminary of Saint Sulpice, allowing God to shape and transform him into a beloved disciple who would be an apostle.

How am I constantly formed as a beloved disciple? Few of us are called to be religious or seminarians, but all of us are called to allow God to shape us each day through our personal experiences, other people, our situations and interactions and by world events. Who and what are the formative influences in my life?

2/ It was Eugene's overwhelming sense of God's love for him that gave him the desire to respond as generously as possible. During his days of formation, Eugene was able to respond by formulating a "personal spirituality."

I am invited to the same by reflecting on how my experience of God, people, world and Church is expressed in

my lifestyle,
the core values by which I live, and
my spiritual practices.

All this is what is referred to as "my spirituality." It is this that I share with others in example and action.

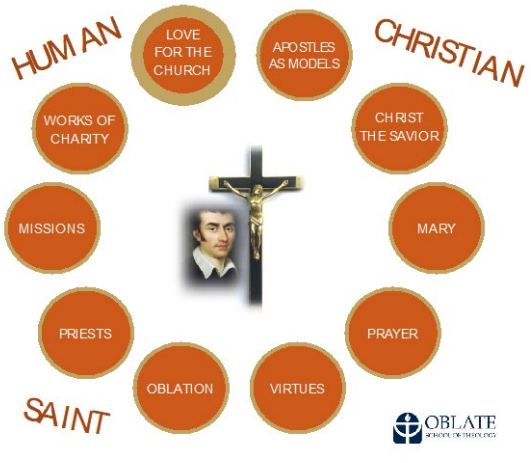
3/ **At the seminary of Saint Sulpice, the foundation stones were laid for the rest of Eugene's life, spirituality and mission. The beloved disciple considered Jesus as "*the lovable model to whom I must, as is my desire with his grace, conform myself. I meditated on him as my redeemer, head, king, master, model and judge*."**

In one of his notebooks from his seminary days we find this beautiful image of how he made the Savior his model:

> *"To make myself like Jesus Crucified.*
> *It is like the painter who copies a model.*
> *He places the model in the best light, studies him carefully, concentrates on him, tries to engrave his image in his spirit,*
> *then he traces some lines on the paper, which he compares with the original,*
> *then he makes corrections until he is satisfied that it conforms with the original,*
> *then he continues…"*

What does this process and image say to me?

4**/ During his time of formation, Eugene received the "foundation stones" on which he built for the rest of his life. These foundations became the base from which the spirituality and mission of his Mazenodian family developed. We recognize them today.**



⇒ What (and who) have been the formative foundation stones in my life and activity? How have I responded since then?

CONCLUDING PRAYER (composed by St Eugene before his ordination)**:**

My God, what language is there to express what this infinite, incomprehensible goodness means to me?

My God, double, triple, increase my strength a hundredfold that I may love you, not merely as much as I can, that is nothing, but that I love you as much as did the saints, as much as your holy Mother loved and loves you.

My God, that is not enough, and why I should I not love you as much as you love yourself? That cannot be, I know, but to desire it is not impossible, for I form it in all sincerity in my heart, with all my soul.

Yes, my God, I would like to love you as much as you love yourself; this then is how I may undertake to make reparation for my past ingratitude.