

# 'Oblate Associates in the Triennium: A New Heart, A New Spirit, A New Mission"

## Archives

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August 2015 [12-15]      New Beginnings, New Invitations, New Resources

"Father General Louis Lougen OMI has pointed out that what appeals to people about Pope Francis is what also appeals to people about Saint Eugene and the Oblates [*Convocation, April 2015 Address*]. Francis' approachability, heart for the poor, emphasis on God's mercy, simplicity of life and style, warmth and compassion: these qualities could be used to describe St. Eugene and indeed, the Oblate charism.

But, as Father Louis also notes, this is generally not much known. In the Church's rich communion of saints, Eugene de Mazenod is still not widely known, despite the canonization which brought him onto the world stage. Oblates and Associates have a role to play in making Saint Eugene and the Oblate charism more known and accessible.



September is a time for beginnings: classes commence, our routines return, and meetings suspended for summer start up again. In many of the Districts, Oblates and Associates will recommence regular meetings. It's an awesome time **to invite new people** to consider coming to know Saint Eugene and the Oblates better through Association!

There are two stages to the process – and now, resources for both!! In April 2015 a new booklet was sent to the District offices: **Introduction to Oblate Associates**. This 21 page booklet provides basic information about Saint Eugene, the Oblate charism and Association. It's a great '**beginner's guide**' to give to anyone who wants to know more about Associates and the Oblates.

And now, there is now a **SECOND** resource available in the Districts by early September. **Oblate Associates Formation Resources** is a set of twenty-two sessions on the Oblate Charism and Oblate Association. It can be used to create an **initial formation process, enrich a process already in place** or for **on-going formation**. Access is through the District Animators, District Secretaries, or me, the Provincial Animator.

As Father Louis reminded us, it seems that once people hear about Saint Eugene, they are drawn to him. Will you do part to invite someone to become better acquainted with this saint and the charism which we so love? Invite someone to journey with you – today! For more information on the NEW RESOURCE '**Oblate Associates Formation Resources**,' contact me at

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