

EUGENE DE MAZENOD 101 - presentation 2



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 2: A MIGRANT EXILED FROM HIS OWN COUNTRY AND CULTURE FOR ELEVEN YEARS

⇒ 1/ **God never abandoned Eugene, but always provided a guide. Who have been the formative figures (guides) in my life?**

In the Bible we find many people who serve as guides to others-Eli, for example was a guide for the prophet Samuel. (1 Samuel 3:1-19)

During the time young Samuel was minister to the LORD under Eli, a revelation of the LORD was uncommon and vision infrequent. One day Eli was asleep in his usual place. His eyes had lately grown so weak that he could not see. The lamp of God was not yet extinguished, and Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But he answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep." At that time Samuel was not familiar with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him as yet. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'"

⇒ 2/ Eugene always needed to be part of a family (a role which the Zinellis and Cannizzaros provided during his exile). He strove to create a sense of family among the members of the youth congregation and the Oblates: “We form a family of which all who compose it wish only to have one heart and one soul.”

How does the Mazenodian Family, or my faith community, help me to recognize this sense of belonging?

Letter of St Eugene to Fr. Mouchette, December 2, 1854:

Let all the Oblate brothers be imbued with the family spirit that ought to exist among us. I have seen many religious Orders, I have very close contact with the most regular ones among them. Well, I have recognized besides their merits, a great esprit de corps among them. But nowhere else have I found this more-than-fatherly love of the head for the family's members, this friendly intercourse of the members with their head, all of which results in mutual relationships that come from the heart and from family bonds among us of father to sons, of sons to the father.

For this I have always thanked God as a special gift he has deigned to grant me; he has given me an exceptional heart, an overflow of love which is special to me, which extends to each one without detriment to the others, as is the case, if I may dare say so, with God's love for men. I am talking about this sentiment I recognize as coming from him who is the source of all love; that has called forth in the hearts of my sons the mutual love that is the distinctive character of our dearly beloved family. May this mutually help us more to savour the beauty of our vocation, and may everything be related to God for his greater glory. This is the most ardent desire of my heart.

⇒ 3/ Eugene became a Don Bartolo to others. How am I, or the community that I belong to, a “Don Bartolo” figure to others?

St. Eugene de Mazenod, Diary

Can I ever thank God sufficiently for getting for me, out of his infinite goodness, help such as this precisely at the most difficult time of life, a decisive time for me, in which were planted by a man of God, in my soul prepared by his skillful hand and the grace of the Holy Spirit whose instrument he was, the foundations of religion and piety on which the mercy of God has built the edifice of my spiritual life? It was in the school of this holy priest that I learnt to despise worldly vanities, to taste the things of God: far removed from all dissipation, from every contact with young people of my age, I did not even give a thought to what constitutes the object of their desires. I went to confession every Saturday, to communion every Sunday.

Suggested Concluding Prayer:

LEAD, Kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom
 Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home—
 Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see

The distant scene—one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor pray'd that Thou
 Shouldst lead me on.
I loved to choose and see my path, but now
 Lead Thou me on!
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,

Pride ruled my will: remember not past years.

So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still
 Will lead me on,
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
 The night is gone;
And with the morn those angel faces smile

Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

-St. John Henry Newman