

EUGENE DE MAZENOD 101

PRESENTATION 5 : THE BELOVED DISCIPLE DARES TO DISCERN

“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/ Eugene’s experience of the Crucified Savior demanded a response which compelled him to give himself to the service of the Savior. As he reflected on his life as a “beloved disciple” as a result of his baptism, he understood his conversion experience as an “unforgettable act of mercy”:

Beginning with the happy moment when, regenerated in the saving waters of baptism, I was raised to the awesome dignity of child of God, loaded with my Saviour’s gifts, I could more easily count the successive and rapid movements of my breathing than the number of the immeasurable benefits that this adorable Master has poured out on me in generous measure.

But there is not one of them, I do believe, that I can more suitably dwell on than that unforgettable act of mercy by which this powerful God snatched me with sweetest violence from the midst of a corrupting world, where sadly surrounded with the wicked, and by a fatal necessity existing among them, I ran the risk at every moment of giving in to the many poisons I was being offered.

⇒ Recall and reflect on some of your own experiences of God, as a baptized person, that urged a response from you. How do you express your experience and concept of God? For Eugene the central focus was “Savior” - what is yours?

2/ Eugene went through a process of accompanied discernment to recognize how to express God’s call in his choice of a state of life. Writing to his sister, he emphasized the importance of discernment:

We are all bound to tend towards perfection whatever may be our state of life. But we must be aware that the perfection of a married woman is not that of a young single woman or a religious; she has obligations that are special and different.

⇒ How did you make your vocational choices - why? Where is God present in your current vocation as spouse, single person, celibate...? How does your daily occupation reflect this?

3/ Eugene's experience of Jesus as his Savior set him on fire to go and inflame others with his same relationship of love with his Savior.

*As the Lord is my witness, what he wants of me is
that I renounce a world where it is almost impossible to find salvation, such is the power of
apostasy there;
that I devote myself especially to his service
and try to reawaken the faith that is becoming extinct amongst the poor;
in a word, that I make myself available to carry out any orders he may wish to give me
for his glory and
the salvation of souls he has redeemed by his precious blood.*

⇒ How does the community to which you belong respond to the Savior's call to be his cooperator?

4/ "Through our choices, we can become the person God is calling us to be" (E. Liebert). From Eugene's descriptions of his conversion journey , we can draw four ongoing invitations for ourselves as beloved disciples:

- 1/ A constant daily call to a change of direction in life. How do I do this?
- 2/ How do I choose to place Christ the Savior at the center of everything in my life
- 3/ How do I express God's unconditional love for me in my daily life?
- 4/ How do I share my experience of God with those around me?

CONCLUDING PRAYER:

"Suscipe" (St. Ignatius Loyola)

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding,
and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.
You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.
Everything is yours; do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace,
that is enough for me.