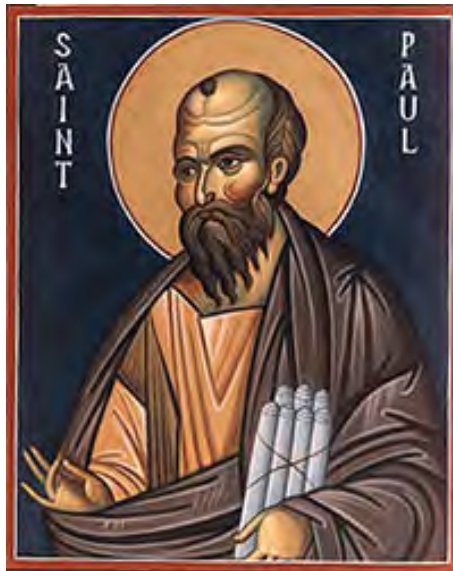


Retreat 2017  
Munakata, Fukuoka  
Speaker: Ray Warren, OMI







An Oblate Missionary pilgrimage

Who are you Lord? Acts 9:5

Jesus is the Son of God! Acts 9:21

### **Prayer poem based on Romans 8:1-11**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Life-giving God,  
we gather in Your presence  
to offer You thanksgiving and praise  
for all that You have done for us.

Through the life, death and resurrection of Your Son,  
Jesus Christ,  
we have been set free—  
free from the power of sin that leads to death,  
free to follow the leading of Your Holy Spirit,  
free to love You with all our heart and soul and strength,  
free to worship!

May Your Holy Spirit inspire our praise and our prayers.  
Open our hearts and minds  
to Your presence among us and within us,  
and to the Word You have for us today.

To You alone, life-giving God,  
belongs all praise and honor and glory and blessing,  
now and to the end of time.  
Amen.

## Prayer

Lord, you bore the weight of our humanity to come as near to us as possible. Help us to realise you stand beside us and walk with us the journey of life.

## CONTEXT IN THE COMMUNITY

Romans is quite an experiential document. Right from chapter 2 onwards, Paul want the hearers to pay attention to what is actually happening in their lives. This is true of the negative parts to do with sin and also true of the positive sections such as chapter 8. Unlike some preachers, Paul is not telling the Roman believers how they should feel but rather inviting them to notice what is actually happening in their own experience, especially at this point in their experience of prayer. Do they have the spiritual gifts? Do they call to Abba, father? Do they know the help and intercession of the Holy Spirit? In a word, do they know the love of God and do they love God in response?

## Other thoughts

What is distinctive about our faith as Christians?  
We do not believe in a system of ideas or even in a higher ethics:  
we believe in a person, who gives life "a new horizon and a decisive direction"  
(Benedict XVI).

The Trinity is not first of all a puzzle, which in principle could be solved, but rather a mystery, a relationship which is first of all lived, never exhausted and only inadequately spoken of in words. This is true of any of the significant relationships in our lives and true, therefore, all the more so of God. Within the mystery of that relationship, we recognise God, from whom we come, in whom we live and move and have our being. We recognise the Son, the way, the truth and the life. We recognise the Spirit, who helps us to pray when we do not know how to pray as we ought.

The Lord understands us and knows us better than we know ourselves. O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

(Ps 139 :1–3) He knows of what we are made and so we can come confidently before him with our brokenness and need of his grace. It might be good during Mass today to become aware of whatever is a burden to me now in my life and ask the Lord for his love and healing touch.

Kieran O'Mahoney, OSA

## POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. There is much to reflect upon here: what is my own fundamental outlook or mentality? Is it life-giving and according to the Spirit?
2. How do I experience in my daily life the call to faithful discipleship?
3. What difference, spiritually and practically, does the indwelling Spirit make?

## PRAYER

Life-giving God, through the life, death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, we have been set free - free from the power of sin that leads to death, free to follow the leading of Your Holy Spirit, free to love You with all our heart and soul and strength, free to worship!

May your Holy Spirit inspire our praise and our prayers. Open our hearts and minds to your presence among us and within us, and to the Word You have for us today.

To you alone, life-giving God, belongs all praise and honour and glory and blessing, now and to the end of time. Amen.

**RETREAT Japan-Korea Delegation**  
**Jesus Christ and Me – *An Oblate Missionary Pilgrimage***  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>1: Jesus Christ and Me</b>  Introduction Invocation to the Holy Spirit  Reflection text	<b>3 Jesus Christ and Me</b>  In the Company of St Eugene  Reflection text	<b>5 Jesus Christ and Me</b>  Considering Jesus' question to me; Who do you say I am?  Reflection text	<b>7 Jesus Christ and Me</b>  In the Company of St Paul  Reflection text	<b>8 Jesus Christ and Me</b>  Living and witnessing as missionary Oblates today  Experience of Lourdes Pilgrimage
<b>2: Jesus Christ and Me</b>  A reflection on Pilgrimage - a faith journey	<b>4 Jesus Christ and Me</b>  A reflection on the vow of Obedience	<b>6 Jesus Christ and Me</b>  In company with Pope Francis	<b>8 Jesus Christ and Me</b>  In the Company of Mary our Mother  Reflection text	
<b>Eucharist</b>  <b>Mass of Holy Spirit</b>  <b>Reading of the day</b>  <b>Lk 4: 16-30 The spirit of the Lord has been given to me</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>  <b>Mass of St Eugene</b>  <b>Readings of the day</b>  <b>Lk 4: 31-37 Jesus spoke with authority</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>  <b>Mass of the day</b>  <b>Lk 4:38-44 Jesus does what he was sent to do</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>  <b>Mass for deceased Oblates</b>  <b>Readings of the day</b>  <b>Lk 5: 1-11 They left everything and followed him</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>  <b>Feast: Birthday of BVM</b>  <b>Matthew 1:18-23 The word of the Lord is fulfilled</b>

<b>Optional sharing</b>  A time to share together our life, faith and mission. Use the reflection text of this morning or the Gospel for today or simply share on anything that might have touched you	<b>Optional sharing</b>	<b>Optional sharing</b>	<b>Optional sharing</b>	