

Dear Brothers,



We will soon meet in Koga to celebrate Christmas during which we, as a Delegation will also begin the “Year of Vocations”.

In preparation for the two hundred years of our Congregation, we began ‘a journey of faith’, the Oblate Triennium, in December 2013. In the letter introducing that year, Fr. Louis Lougen, our Superior General invited every member of the Oblate family to **1. Contemplate and follow Jesus’ vocational ministry,** **2. To pray in our local communities and in our Units asking God to send us men whom we might receive and welcome as new members,** **3. To discuss the vocational reality in our Units, as men of faith and in hope** and **4. To organize a pastoral ministry of outreach for new members through the involvement of every Oblate by appointing full-time coordinators.** (Letter of Superior General, 8th December 2013). It was a call to create a “culture of Vocations” in our Congregation.

Let us take these four invitations as objectives and guidelines for the Year of Oblate Vocations, and try in our own little way to look for new members. Let us also wish and pray that our coming together with young people may give us hope for our mission.

Brad Rozairo

Pope Francis' short guide to Christmas

December 2014

POPE FRANCIS:

"Don't let Christmas become a celebration of consumerism, appearances and pointless gifts, or superfluous waste. Rather, let it be the feast when one joyfully welcomes the Lord in the manger of the heart."

But what is Christmas all about? Pope Francis has repeatedly called it the "feast of poverty," and has asked Christians to celebrate it accordingly.

"This is the true Nativity: the feast of poverty, of God who annihilated Himself, assuming the nature of a slave; of God who served at the table; of God who hid Himself from the intelligent and the wise and instead revealed Himself to the smallest, the simple and the poor."

With these advice, Pope Francis calls on everyone to re-discover the real meaning of Christmas.



The first World Day of the Poor, Nov. 19, 2017