



*Oblate Triennium - A Pilgrimage of Grace*

*Provincial Delegation of Japan-Korea*

*Dec. 26, 2013, Itami*

## Evening Prayer

**Hymn:** Send us your Spirit...

### **Introduction:**

With the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of our Patroness, Mary Immaculate, in this year of Our Lord 2013 we begin the **Oblate Triennium**, a preparation period of three years for the 200<sup>th</sup> jubilee of our beginnings as a Congregation. This anniversary is an opportunity for us to give thanks to God for the grace of our Congregation, to review our lives in light of the conclusions of 35<sup>th</sup> General Chapter and to recommit ourselves to the call and the vision that inspired Saint Eugene de Mazenod to form the Missionaries of Provence in 1816.

The jubilee of our Congregation draws us to appreciate and express gratitude for God's guidance and blessings during these past 200 years. We recognize the heroic missionary history and dedication of Oblates past and present. In faithfulness to the tradition we bear, and creatively responding to the signs of the times that call to us, we position ourselves for the future. In order to be both grounded in the Oblate charism we have received and responsive to the needs of the poor today the 35<sup>th</sup> General Chapter in 2010 convoked us to embrace the reality of "a profound personal and community conversion to Jesus Christ." It is only by daring to open ourselves to the process of conversion that the Spirit will fan the flame of our missionary zeal.

The Oblate Triennium is made of two pillars to help us respond to the Spirit's call to conversion. The first pillar is **sharing our faith in community**. This is not discussion or debate about ideas, but an invitation

to conversations on the level of faith; opportunities to enrich each other by witnessing our experience of God; faith-story telling to deepen our communion with one another; and occasions to talk about what really matters. The second pillar of the Oblate Triennium is to express **conversion through concrete gestures** creatively discerned and owned by each Oblate, local community, Unit and Region. These practical actions may be small or large, significant and transforming, personal and communitarian signs of conversion: recycling refuse; doing Oraison together each day; leaving good ministries for a new ministry that is closer to the poor; simplifying our lifestyle; etc.

If we give ourselves to this transforming work of the Spirit our jubilee will be a **kairos** throwing us anew into the heart of God's mission at the service of the most abandoned people of our society.

### Sharing our Oblate Life:

- What does the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Congregation mean to me? What are my hopes for the Congregation as we celebrate 200 years of missionary service in the Church?
- What commitment am I willing to make so that the Oblate Triennium may be a time of grace in my life and for our community/ delegation?
- Are we as a community willing to spend time once or twice a month to share our life of faith? Am I able to enter into the process?
- What visions and dreams can we share as Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate?
- Theme: Year 1: **8 Dec. 2013 ~ 7 Dec. 2014** - This year the theme is the call of conversion to life in "**Oblate Apostolic Community**". How is the community of the Apostles around the person of Jesus a model for our life together?

## Silence

### **Commitment - a Sign of Conversion:**

We are preparing for the Triennium by seeing how we can grow, change, be transformed. We are asked to consider a concrete gesture in the life of our community as a sign of conversion. Let us ask God to inspire us, help us be bold and courageous so that during these weeks and months of preparation we will commit ourselves to some real signs of new life among us.

### **Spontaneous Prayers**

Response – Lord Jesus, we ask that you fan the flame of your spirit within us.

### **Handing over of the CC&RR**

#### **Consecration:**

We stand before you, Lord, to say personally and in community: HERE I AM! We consecrate ourselves to you, Father, in Christ your son who has called us for the mission, at his school he has let us grow, and he has sent us into the world.

We wish to seriously strive to become saints, renouncing ourselves, desirous only of your glory, laboring tirelessly to become meek, humble, obedient, lovers of poverty, ready to sacrifice goods, talents, rest, and even our own lives for the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Hymn:** Here I am Lord...