

The members of the Oblate family connect with each other through this prayer on the third Sunday every month.

ORAISON

19th May 2024

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EVANGELIUM LIVE: John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now.

I have many questions inside me... I am always asking God something, mostly perhaps why He is so often silent. Why doesn't He explain to me how it is possible that my friend has cancer, why He won't stop the war in Ukraine, why I don't speak German when it would be so useful, why I have wanted to become a nun for so long, and now I am preparing for marriage? But this gospel is very comforting to me. Jesus is saying to me: be calm, you know exactly what you need to know. You don't need or can't know more now, it might even hurt you. The Lord knows me better than I know myself. He knows that I am often confused and I want so badly to make sense of what is happening right now. But he also knows exactly why he is silent in these situations.

When I was at my first Ignatian Exercises, which were held entirely in silence, I understood the importance of silence. That not saying something is sometimes more meaningful than saying something. I see now that God's silence is as important as his word. That his silence is worth listening to as much as his word, even though sometimes it hurts to endure it.



Living in a relationship now teaches me one beautiful and very liberating thing: that all I need to know is that I am loved. That's what I can base my life on and nothing will falter with it, even when everything around me is falling apart.

God, I trust you that you need to protect me from something with your silence, or to stir me to action. I want to surrender to you now all the questions that trouble me and keep me awake. May your silent, loving gaze reach all my confusions, insecurities and despair. Holy Spirit, come and let us experience that we are beloved children of God and that we need nothing more.

St. Eugene de Mazenod in a letter to to Henri Tempier, 1832

The profound conviction of my soul sits very well with the feeling of my own lowliness, personal poverty and unworthiness; but none the less I am sure that, through God's mercy, I have completely changed. I have a clearer knowledge of my duties and I think I have obtained, with the Holy Spirit, the resolve to discharge them faithfully.

John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me. And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.

