

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

ORAIISON

21st July 2024

EN

EVANGELIUM LIVE: Mc. 6:30-34

Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.

When I have to report to someone about what I've done, it's usually about a project or a task. I have to present the current status, reflect on what went well, what went wrong and what needs to be changed. It's about evaluating and improving performance and the project. I and my own needs go by the wayside for now. Especially when I'm stressed, I tend to put my own needs on the back burner, even when it's important to address them.

This is where the gospel comes in. When the disciples report their mission to Jesus, he sees their efforts, sees that they are exhausted, and gives them space to take care of themselves first. He allows them to pause and rest. What did or did not go well on the mission is irrelevant at this point.



I find that thought comforting. I often find myself worrying about whether my performance was good, what mistakes I made, that I have to answer to someone and that I will be judged. It reassures me when Jesus tells me, "Don't forget yourself and your neighbors. Pay attention to what you need to be well, and I will give you space to take care of your needs."

Letter of S. Eugene de Mazenod to Fr. Honorat, 1827

Does it not come naturally that I want you to rest after a hard mission? And how can I not be angry when I see that you are instead engaged in a very demanding job, and what is worse, when I see that you are already preparing for another job. [...] I really want you to rest and study; we must understand how to cut things short in time.

Mc. 6:30-34

The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. People saw them leaving and many came to know about it. They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

