

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

ORAISON

15th September 2024

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EVANGELIUM LIVE: Mk 8:27-35

But whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.

In today's Gospel, the phrase that touches me the most is: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it."

Recently I was fortunate to participate in a mission trip to Senegal. It was my first time in Africa and the contact with the Senegalese reality was a little uncomfortable at first. I really was in a different world. In the first few days I tried to immerse myself in the culture and somehow connect with the people.

I told myself that I wasn't here to be a spectator, but that it was first and foremost an opportunity to love those I would meet. Then I realized that all I could do was to put my worries aside and overcome obstacles with my open heart. This caused the discomfort to slowly begin to fade and I felt more and more at home with the people we met.

One evening we had dinner with a Senegalese family. I had felt a bit apprehensive about this appointment in the previous days, but in the afternoon of that day I couldn't wait to meet the family and really live this experience. The Senegalese are very hospitable, and we immediately felt very comfortable there. The evening was therefore beautiful and interesting: we talked about our lives and our participation in the Oblate Charism.

The trip to Senegal was very enriching for me. I was happy to get to know the missionaries there



and to share my experiences with them. I was able to experience how the charism of St. Eugene works in the mission ad gentes, and to experience the good that the missionaries have done and continue to do for the people of Senegal.

Bishop Eugene's Circular Letter, 1847

Let it not be said they belong to an empire other than ours. That would be completely unworthy of Christian charity for we are all, as long as men dwell on earth, children of our Father in heaven and neighbours to each other. Not only is the blood of the same human family common to us but the blood of our Redeemer in which we share as recipients of the same grace and the same sacraments.

Mark 8:27-35

Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” They said in reply, “John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter said to him in reply, “You are the Messiah.” Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.”

