

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

ORAISON

16th February 2025

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EVANGELIUM LIVE: Lk 6,17.20-26

Happy are you who are poor, happy are you who are now weeping... Using the word "happy" instead of the noble "blessed" helps me a lot to understand this Gospel. Because when I hear the word "blessed," I will think long and hard about the meaning and still not figure it out. When it says "happy" I already know, and it definitely sounds more joyful.

Living this word is a huge challenge for me. In today's world, when everything revolves around money and possessions, wealth and abundance, and we think it will make us happy, we hear from Jesus that we will be happy if we are poor. I often wonder how I would handle situations in life if I had enough money. I would send a bunch of money to charity and have it checked off that I helped someone. I would hire a crew of workers to finish my brother's house, just so I wouldn't have to spend my time there and not have to exert myself. Would that bring me joy? Would I be

happy? That's not how it works.

So I'm gonna go help my brother build, sacrifice my time and effort. And in return, I get sincere gratitude and a brotherly hug, and tears well up in my eyes with joy and happiness.

Happy are you who are poor, happy are you who are now weeping, because you will laugh.



Mario Borzaga, The Diary of a Happy Man, 1956

I have understood my vocation: to be a happy man, even in the effort of identifying myself with the crucified Christ. First the sacrifice, then the joy of distributing myself to brothers around the world. If I were to give myself without first sublimating myself through sacrifice, I would give my brothers who are hungry for God nothing but a human wreck. But if I accept my death in union with that of Jesus, it is Jesus Himself that I will be able to give to my brothers, with my own hands.

Luke 6,17.20-26

He came down with them and stood on a stretch of level ground. A great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon came to hear him.

And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. But woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way.

