

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

ORAIISON

18th May 2025

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EVANGELIUM LIVE: John 13:31-33a.34-35

“This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

I enjoy reading interviews or listening to podcasts with the topic of relationships. I think relationships are a skill I'm still learning, so I'm grateful for any new ideas in this area. In one of them it was said that one of the biggest challenges of parenthood is not to lose love for the one with whom we have children. From my five years of parenting experience so far, I have to say that taking care of any relationship, whether it is a partnership, friendship, intergenerational relationships in the family, or even a personal relationship with God, was (and still often is) a really big challenge for me.

Time seems to pass about a hundred times faster with the kids, sometimes I feel like I'm just fluttering along with life. And in the cycle of parenting responsibilities, tiredness and endless to-do lists, I often lose myself and there is no energy, time, determination or patience left to nurture relationships to keep them high-quality and vivid. I have to admit that this surprised me about parenting. For a long time I felt guilty about not being a good enough wife, friend, sister, daughter, lay-associated... However, thanks to my "self-study of relationships" I have come to understand that, like everything in parenting, it is just a phase that I have to accept humbly and that the time of nurturing relationships will come again.



At the end of last year, I told myself that relationships would be my theme for the upcoming year, that I would consciously focus on taking care of them. I still wish I had more energy and time to do it, but I compensate with determination and hopefully patience. And after a long time, I notice that it is not just self-denial and hard work for me, but that it brings me pure joy. At the same time, I recognize that relationships can be my testimony in today's world, my personal mission that I am called to do right now.

Antoni Bochm OMI, from the letter on the 209th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Congregation, 2025

Good family and community life is a desire of many people: it is still a challenge in today's world. How to care for one another, how to offer our lives to others with love and dedication? By not living rivalry and subordinating others, but rather giving and serving others like Jesus, who did not come to be served but to serve. By living well as Oblates and as an Oblate family, by witnessing our call to live our missionary life in community and through community.

Author of the text: Ludmila Šimkaninová (Czechia)
www.oblati.cz

John 13:31-33a.34-35

When he (Judas) had left, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. [If God is glorified in him,] God will also glorify him in himself, and he will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

