



M.A.M.I.

Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

When I listen to Pope Francis I hear Saint Eugene



Fr Frank Santucci OMI has just visited Australia and lead the annual Oblate Retreat and visited many of our Australian Oblate communities.

Within hours of the election of Pope Francis, one of his first declarations was: "Oh, how I would like a poor Church, and for the poor." From that time on, as I listen to the Pope's speeches, I can hear Saint Eugene speaking! The vocabulary is similar, the ideals are alike, the spirit of the symbolic gestures is identical.



Pope Francis



Eugene de Mazenod

Looking at Eugene "through the eyes of Pope Francis" I think immediately of the ideal of Eugene's ministry "to evangelize the poor", and of his first pronouncements to the poor: "My brothers, dear brothers, respected brothers, listen to me. You are God's children, the brothers of Jesus Christ." The spirit of these words was constantly echoed by Eugene in his words and actions for the rest of his life. Eugene's passionate love for God – "I want to live only for you" – was expressed in concrete and prophetic actions for the poor and marginalized. His God was the God of mercy and compassion whose invitation was to see all people and situations "through the eyes of the crucified Saviour."

As a person who preached not only in words, but also loudly with symbolic gestures, his first public activity was to gather the poor of Aix to instruct them in their own language. Thereafter he was always on the lookout for the marginalized, those not being touched by the structures of the local church: prisoners, those condemned to death, the youth, the handicapped, sexual workers, those whose marriages were irregular, the immigrants etc.

Impatient with cumbersome church bureaucracy and with corruption among its ministers (calling bad clergy the "cancer of the church") he worked at forming a

body of exemplary ministers who would renew the Church and its structures from within. For him the Church was not primarily a hierarchy, but the People of God who had been ransomed by the Saviour. He taught that to love Jesus Christ was to love the Church, and vice versa.

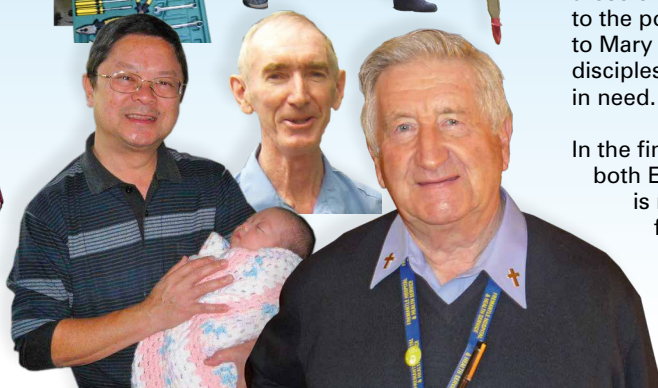
With a heart as large as the world, Eugene's pastoral care went beyond France. He sent missionaries to the needy of North America, Asia, Africa and Europe. From his people in Marseille he demanded prayers and material help for the victims of the potato famine in Ireland, victims of war and others in need.

As I describe Eugene, I could be describing Pope Francis. Why the similarity? The answer comes from the several hours of daily personal prayer of each one. In allowing themselves to be moulded by their Gospel-centred prayer, they both witness with conviction to what they experience of Jesus – and more important, their words and actions mirror those of Jesus in the Gospels, especially to the poor. Both have a strong devotion to Mary and a desire to imitate her discipleship and maternal care for those in need.

In the final analysis, when we listen to both Eugene and Francis speaking, it is really Jesus himself that we hear from their mouths and whom we recognize in their actions.



Oblates missioning at home and abroad



Fr Frank Santucci OMI

Director's Update

As Director of MAMI, on a daily basis I am learning to appreciate the wonderful support of prayer and financial assistance given by the Oblate Family to our Missions both overseas and at home in Australia.

What is being achieved through the Oblates in their respective missions would not be possible without support from the members of the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate. The projects you assist with grow out of the experience of Oblates living with people in their need. The project is submitted and reviewed by the Provincial of the area, who then passes the request on to the MAMI office, from where in turn it is reviewed and if seen to be really making a difference to the lives of the people concerned, approved by the Australian Provincial and Council.

A few days ago Fr Charlie Burrows in Java emailed, 'Where there was once 25,000 hectares of mangrove, this has shrunk to 8,000 and the reclaimed land has become rice fields, by facilitating the sediment flowing via gates/canals into the field in floods. The land has been raised to a height suitable for growing rice.' The tool kits financed from the Christmas

Cards are helping to equip the young trainees in the expanding network of trade schools he is building. The 'chicken and goats' programme is helping families at the basic domestic level relieve their poverty.

Assistance has been given to our Sri Lanka Oblates in the establishing of a centre to assist those traumatised by the civil war. We are also assisting with the training of counsellors for this project.

In Vietnam assistance is being provided to help our Oblates equip and run orphanages for abandoned children.

The students from our Australian Oblate colleges returning from their immersion experiences in India are touched by the poverty and the happiness of the children in the village schools and missions staffed by the Oblates. The bike programme will make getting to school just so much easier for these young people.

The Partners in Mission, who spend several months at a time assisting poor children to learn English and so improve their employment potential, on returning from China have shared with me just how much the facilities provided by MAMI are appreciated.



I have just spent twelve months as chaplain to the Rosies Oblate Outreach in Queensland. Spiritually it did me a lot of good. Almost a thousand volunteers working through ten communities around the State bring the hand of friendship to the homeless and those on the margins of our society. From 2001-09 as parish priest of Fremantle WA, I was privileged to work with St Patrick's Community Care Centre founded by Oblate Bro Ignatius Hannick, which houses and helps care for the needy. Both these organisations have their own fundraising programmes but they are important partners in our Oblate mission to those in need.

St Eugene's challenge was for us 'to make people more human and through our actions they will discover Christ'. Is this not also the call of Pope Francis?

**Fr John Sherman OMI
MAMI Director**

Joshua Nash is about to commence his Novitiate with the Oblates

Having completed a Law Degree at the University of Adelaide, humanitarian work in Africa and youth work with the Archdiocese of Adelaide, Joshua is completing a few months experiencing Oblate community life, and will leave in August to do his Novitiate year in the USA before returning to Australia for his theological studies. Please keep him in your prayers.



50th Anniversary of Fr John Sherman OMI



25th Anniversary of Fr Harry Dyer OMI

50th Anniversary of Fr John Sherman OMI

If I was asked to describe Fr John Sherman OMI in one word it would have to be 'Enthusiastic'. I have had the privilege of living with Fr John twice over the last 10 years. Fr John is a man who wakes with a spring in his step, always positive and always enthusiastic about what he is doing. I think the word Enthusiastic is even more appropriate when we recall the origin of the word: it is derived for the Greek *éntheos* which means having God within, and Fr John is certainly a man who has God within.

Born in Ayr, North Queensland, educated in Brisbane, Fr John Sherman entered the Oblates after working for three years in the public service. Following his novitiate he was sent to the Oblate Seminary in Cedara, South Africa to complete his studies for the Priesthood.

25th Anniversary of Fr Harry Dyer OMI

Harry Dyer grew up in the parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Newborough, next to the Oblate parish of Moe, about an hour's drive east of Melbourne in Gippsland. In those days this was a thriving industrial area, producing electricity for most of Victoria.

Harry was the eldest of 3 children born to Harry and May Dyer, both Scottish immigrants. At his Silver Jubilee celebration his two younger sisters recalled how (Fr.) Harry as a young boy would make them 'play' Mass, enticing them with lollies in place of communion wafers. Fr Harry was blessed to have his mum, May (who turned 91 that week), at the jubilee celebration.

As a young man Fr Harry had formed friendships with Oblates and became very involved in the parish of St Kieran's, Moe. He was a valued leader of the youth group, helping to coordinate youth camps and social evenings for the parish.

While in South Africa he completed his Bachelor of Arts and was ordained by Archbishop Denis Hurley OMI, on 5th July 1965. Returning to Australia, he was assigned to our Oblate college of Iona in Brisbane. Teaching there for seven years, he also obtained his Diploma in Education, and then moved to Mazenod College in Melbourne. There for 11 years he was teacher, sports master, and Bursar, as well as gaining his Master's in Education. As bursar he saw to the building of the gymnasium, and the acquisition of nearby land to expand the small area of the College, on which was built the Music and Manual Arts Centre. In 1984 he returned to Iona College as Rector. During his term Fr John expanded the college facilities by the building of the main hall and extensions to teaching areas. In October 1988 Fr John was appointed Provincial of the Australian Province. This involved the coordination of the various Oblate works in Australia and New Zealand, and entailed much travel and innumerable meetings. During this period he accepted for our Province the China Mission, centred in Hong Kong; expanded the Rosies Apostolate to the Gold Coast, and refurbished the Provincial House. In addition, our Indonesian Mission became its own Province on 21st May 1993.

Following his term Fr John returned to his first work of education, as Rector of Mazenod College, Melbourne, where his skills were evident in expansion and administration. At the end of this appointment, Fr John accepted a new

When the time came for him to discern his vocation Fr Harry had many possible choices. Like any young man, Harry had thoughts of following the fine example his parents had given him by raising his own family. He also had a steady and responsible job working with the Housing Commission. He also realised that if he were to leave his job he may not be able to return to it if things did not work out in the seminary.

Fr Harry's decision to become an Oblate Missionary resulted from prayer and discernment, reflecting the example of faith demonstrated by his parents and the community spirit shown by the Oblates he had come to know.

Fr Harry entered the Oblate Seminary in 1984. Throughout his training he deepened his understanding of the Oblate Charism and ways of living and forming Oblate community. On 17th February 1985 he took First Vows and became an Oblate.

On the 13th July 1990 Fr Harry was ordained in his home parish of Newborough and celebrated his Mass of Thanksgiving in the church at Moe.

He has served in the parishes of St John Vianney's in Mulgrave; St Paul's in Massey N.Z.; Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in Sunshine Vic; St Eugene's in Burpengary, Queensland; and in Rosies

challenge in his next position as Parish Priest of St Patrick's Basilica in Fremantle, WA. Here he showed his style of sound management and vision in establishing the Friends of St Patrick's, a group to support the preservation of this first Australian Oblate Foundation.

While most would expect to be enjoying retirement after many years of service, in recent times Fr John has taken on new missions and challenges: the role of Vocations Director, a difficult ministry that requires a man of God such as him, always enthusiastic and positive. In 2014 Fr John moved to Queensland as Chaplain to Rosies, before returning to Melbourne this year as MAMI Director with a mentoring role as Vice-Rector of Mazenod College Mulgrave.

Fr John has been in the forefront in many fields, and undeterred by obstacles has forged ahead. As a great Missionary Oblate, Fr John has always shared that love of God with those he served with great passion and enthusiasm over the past 50 years.

Fr John, we give thanks for your 50 years of service to the Church and the Oblates, and wish you continued good health, and the joy that comes from a ministry lived well for God's people.

Written by **Fr Christian Fini OMI**



Street Outreach in Melbourne and the Gold Coast. He has also been in charge of MAMI as director, in 2005.

In 2007, Harry was elected as Provincial of the Australian Province. After completing this difficult 6 year task he chose Mazenod College as the place to have his sabbatical. Here, far from resting, he engaged in the life of the College with the students and staff. His presence was greatly appreciated by the College community and his Oblate brothers.

When in 2013 the Oblates were asked to take on Newborough as part of our ministry in the Sale Diocese, it seemed the natural candidate to shepherd these two parishes to form a unity was Fr Harry.

His faith in God's providence and the Oblate spirit, his sense of loyalty to his family and parish community have been a blessing which we pray will continue to grow deeper in Fr Harry's life and ministry. And we thank him for sharing his life with the Oblate Family.

Written by **Fr Leo Mifsud OMI**

CELEBRATIONS

Fr Michael Clarke OMI

Fr Michael Clarke OMI Born 3rd June 1928 in Ardee, Co Louth, Ireland; entered eternal life 19th June 2015, Camberwell, Australia.

Michael was a little impatient that the CALL to eternal life was taking so long. Following his ordination at Piltown, Ireland on 24th August 1952, Fr Michael was appointed to the Australian Oblate Mission. While ministering mainly in parishes, he was for a time Director of MAMI and Director of the Oblate Juniorate in Geelong, Victoria.

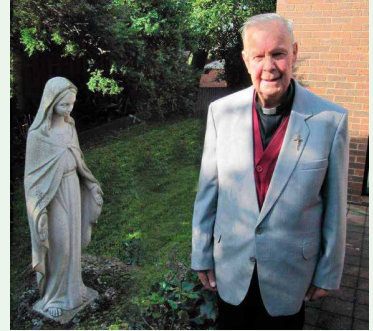
His years in parishes have been noted for his dedication to parish visitation.

With his captivating smile and pleasant disposition, as he knocked on each door introducing himself as the local Catholic Priest he was rarely given a poor reception. Charismatic prayer has been an important part of his personal prayer and parish ministry – it helped him deepen his faith and led to his often-spoken advice given personally or in a homily with eyes and arms raised to heaven, 'Leave the worry to the management'. As Provincial in the early 1990s there were many occasions I just needed a priest to 'fill in for a short period'. When I first approached Michael for one such emergency his reply was, 'My bags are always packed'. What an open cheque of availability for a Provincial!

Since 2002 Fr Michael has lived in retirement at the Provincial House in Camberwell, Victoria where he always had a welcoming smile for Oblates who were passing through. During this time of retirement he still had the energy and interest to attend a prayer meeting, a luncheon and play a game of Scrabble

each week. His brother Oblates and the prayer group members journeyed with him till the day of his death. They were with him for the Rosary and Funeral Mass. Occasionally in my vocations ministry Fr Michael phoned with a bright idea for vocations. Whatever the idea, it always involved prayer.

Fr Michael, a man of peace, joy and PRAYER, we trust is embraced eternally by the God whose Spirit was his guide on earth. With Mary Immaculate's guidance Michael undertook the journey to seek God's Will.



Fr John Cranley OMI

John was born on the 20th of September, 1933, in Wembley, Western Australia. He was one of eleven children, the family of Mick and Kathleen Cranley, two wonderful Catholic parents. He had a great love of his family. Always one for debate and friendly argument, he revelled in this with his brothers and sisters.



John received his primary education from the Sisters of Mercy at Subiaco and his secondary education with the Jesuits at St. Louis College, where he excelled in studies and sport. It came as a surprise then to some that he felt called to join the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He explained this by saying he didn't want to teach! As it turned out, in God's plan for him, he spent half his life in Oblate colleges.

John entered the Oblate Novitiate in Sorrento, Victoria, in 1952. Once professed, he went to Ireland for six long years as there was not yet a seminary for Oblates in Australia. In spite of the exile, John enjoyed Ireland. His father being a Tipperary man meant there were a large number of family friends there. He was popular and shone in his studies. He was ordained in Kilkenny in 1958.

On returning to Australia, he was appointed to Iona College. These were days of almost missionary pioneering in every sense, living in an old farm house, teaching all day, developing courses and facilities – with little money – coaching sports and working with a wonderful band of parents on weekend working bees. John was an excellent teacher, specialising in Religious Education, Maths and the Sciences. He insisted on high standards and a good work ethic but was always patient with the 'battlers'. He was, just the same, famous for his gentle sarcasm such as, "You should eat more fish. It's good for the brain." At the end of one year his students presented an engraved tin of salmon.

Later, as Rector of Mazenod College in W.A., he took up a number of building projects but it tells much about him that his favourite project was the building and furnishing of the chapel. His reverence at the Eucharist and devotion to Our Lord in the tabernacle were clear to see, as was his Oblate devotion to Our Lady. When he became Parish Priest in Kalamunda for 17 years, his people came to know all this and loved him for this and his gentle pastoral caring.

In many ways John was a shy and retiring man – one felt without a true realization of his great gifts. Yet, paradoxically, he loved nothing better than an argument. He would challenge, and sometimes frustrate you, with questions or "Why?". However, when it came to his Faith and the Church, there were no such challenges.

It is wonderful he has gone to his reward as a faithful Oblate and Priest,

indeed to a home where there will be no more questions, only the joy of discovery. So many are the better for his ministry, teaching, friendship and good example. May he rest in peace.

Extract from the eulogy given by **Fr K. Davine OMI**

If you wish to make a donation to MAMI apart from the Annual August appeal, your gift is always happily received. To assist our administration and avoid confusion you may like to use this donation slip. Thank you for kind and generous support.

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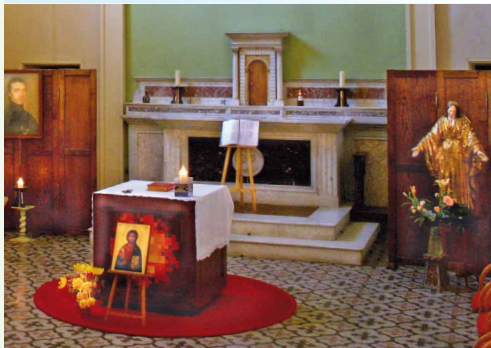
MAMI Triennium Pilgrimage 2016



Itinerary and costing have been finalised and registration is now open. To mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate you are invited to participate in the MAMI Pilgrimage.



Foundation House, Aix-en-Provence, France



The year 1816 is significant as the year in which St Eugene De Mazenod, Founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, began to live in common with the first group of companions in the Mission House in Aix-en-Provence. On 25th January, 1816, the feast of St Paul's Conversion, the five young priests gathered in the common room to sign a formal petition asking the Archdiocese to authorise their newly formed society, to be known as the Missionaries of Provence.

In 2016, Fr Christian Fini OMI will be leading a MAMI Pilgrimage visiting Rome, Florence and Assisi in Italy followed by Lourdes, Aix, Marseilles, and Paris in France. The highlight of the pilgrimage will be time exploring Aix, the town where St Eugene De Mazenod was born and where the Congregation was born. We will also visit Marseilles where St Eugene was Bishop and from where the charism spread to the four corners of the world. The Oblate Youth Australia World Youth Day Pilgrimage will join with the MAMI pilgrimage in Aix, Marseilles and Paris on their way to Poland to share this wonderful experience.

The trip will depart from WA, SA, Vic, NSW and Qld on 3rd July and return on the 22nd July. The cost for twin share is \$6900 and single room \$7800. This costing is based on a minimum 30 pilgrims and includes tipping but does not include travel insurance. Pilgrims need to be over 18 years of age and in good health, able to walk unassisted and navigate stairs.

As mentioned above, once again Oblate Youth Australia will be sending a group to Krakow, Poland for World Youth Day 2016. As well as meeting with the MAMI pilgrimage in Aix and Paris, the group will be attending the International Oblate Youth Gathering in Wroclaw, Poland. More information on the WYD Pilgrimage will be available shortly at www.oblateyouth.com.au.

Full itinerary and registration details are available at www.oblates.com.au or call Emma Rice (03) 9795 5077.



"THE MISSION"

Winter is well and truly upon us now, Victoria and other states having experienced some of their coldest winter years. Luckily some of our Partners in Mission volunteers headed off to Hong Kong to participate in the HK Summer Program and escaped these cold days.

This program runs for four weeks over the HK summer period. The children are on vacation and take the opportunity to learn English through our schools. This year we are fortunate to have three PIMS attend (Margaret Bergin, Joan Fry and Elwyn Bourbon) and two teachers from Pius X, Adelaide.

We look forward to hearing from them upon their return. Please keep them in your prayers.

China tour

The China Immersion tour is on again! The tour will run from 16th – 28th May, 2016. This is a great opportunity to experience the work we do within our China Mission and to enjoy some sightseeing. Expressions of interest are now open and places fill quickly. Please send me an email at pim@oblates.com.au to reserve your seat.

We have vacancies for 2016 in our Missions: *We need people of all ages, from all backgrounds and professions.*

If you are interested in this opportunity or know of someone who is, please contact Luisa Amati at pim@oblates.com.au for further information.



2014 MAMI Pilgrims at the tomb of St Eugene in Marseilles, France

Bro Sayyane's Deaconate



Bro Sayyane OMI is ordained a Deacon by Bishop Mark Edwards OMI at St Kieran's in Moe, Vic.



August Appeal

Responses to the August appeal have been steadily arriving. If you haven't had a chance to renew your association with MAMI through a donation this year it is never too late.

Christmas Card Programme

Thank you again for participating in the Christmas Card program purchasing goats, chooks, tool boxes, bikes, books and desks in Indonesia, China and India.

Vocations Weekend



The Oblate Vocations weekend 28-29 Nov. to be held at 649 Burke Road Camberwell – the site of our new seminary. Most vocations come through someone saying to a person 'Have you ever thought of being a Priest or Brother'. It would be a great grace if each person attending the November DW 15 weekend could say I am here because a MAMI member put the question re a vocation to me.



Fr Pat Dwyer OMI

Fr Conal Campbell OMI

Fr Tom Devereux OMI

What Oblates you know are doing...

Fr Des O'Donnell OMI while based at our Oblate House in Inchicore, is still giving talks to priests around Ireland and retreats as well. He helps out in the Parish of Mary Immaculate in Dublin, celebrating Masses and hearing confessions. He has just completed another book called 'Gospel Conversations: Little Reflection Pieces', which will be soon published. He is in good shape physically and does an hour of walking most days.

Fr Conal Campbell OMI is doing well and is also at Inchicore. He still keeps up reading, helped by having a big screen and keyboard in his room. He is vitally interested in all that is happening in the Australian Province.

Fr Pat Dwyer OMI has also retired to Inchicore; physically he is good, but has significant memory loss. He is displaying his usual Irish charm.

Fr Tom Devereux OMI having returned nearly two years ago from Bondi, is ministering in London at the Oblate Parish of the English Martyrs, located behind the Tower of London.

Coming Events around in the Australian Provinces/ Delegation of China

- 13-14 Sept—MAMI Appeal – Tea Tree Gully.
- 3-4 Oct—MAMI Appeal Burpengary.
- 24 Oct—St John Vianney's Annual Parish Fete 9.00am – 4.00pm.
- 24-25 Oct—MAMI Appeal – Fremantle.
- 28-29 Nov—Discernment Weekend.

Things to Pray for

- We are currently in the process of being consulted by our Father General for the appointment of Province Leader for the next three years.
- Pray for Vocations especially for the Oblates and in particular for Joshua Nash as he commences his novitiate.



Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

Published by the Oblate Office of Mission, M.A.M.I. Centre, P.O. Box 384, Camberwell, Vic 3124
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