May 10, 2022

***Our reflection about our values connected with the holistic Laudato Si’ Goals***

The Foundation Day of the Missionaries Oblates of Mary Immaculate was on January 25, 1816. Our founder, Saint Eugene de Mazenod (1782-1861), with four other companions began to live in community in Aix-en-Provence, France. The Congregation obtained the papal approval of the CC. & RR, on February 17, 1826. Today we are a community of more than 3,000 members in 61 countries. Knowing that the *charism of the Founders* is revealed as an *experience of the Spirit*, *transmitted to his disciples* (cf. EN, 11); we too, inspired by our Founder who, throughout his life, experienced in himself the merciful love of God, manifested in Jesus Christ, the crucified Savior.

As Oblates, we recognize the power of Christ in us and we want to show with our lives the joy of the Good News for all creation. Because we are Oblate, *we shall be the heart that beats with Jesus own for people scourged and torn apart*. Therefore, we are all partners in Mission sharing the common task of saving the planet and going out to evangelize. As Oblates we leave nothing undared and we are specialists in the difficult missions of the Church as Pope Pius XI described us. [Please visit: www.omiworld.org].

Now let’s speak briefly about our values connected with the *Laudato Si’ Goals*. Inspired by the experience of Oblate Missionaries from around the world, the congregation has documented in General Chapter documents since 1974, specific learnings and actions that have been undertaken to integrate this mandate into their missionary work. This includes living in missionary communities, out of our comfort zones, and going to *the peripheries* to realize the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God. In association with others, particularly with lay people, the Oblates look to develop fresh animation resources for mission and discern new missionary strategies to respond to major missionary challenges (…).

In pilgrimage with the Church, walking together in synodality (in communion), we grow in an awareness of the numerous challenges and circumstances that call for public policies to respond to, the world wide social and ecological challenges and oblige us to not let the priority of justice, peace and integrity of creation slip away.

As Oblates of M.I., drawing upon the charism of Saint Eugene, we will contribute to the promotion and protection of human dignity and human rights and to care and stewardship of the earth, "our common home". We hope that this background helps to explain what motivates us to build this Action Plan and invite you to join with us and journey together in the spirit of Laudato Si’. The action on behalf of Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation has been confirmed as an integral part of Oblate evangelization in the world among and with the most abandoned (cf. RR. 9a, General Chapter, 2012).

With a contemplative stance, a spiritual attitude and a prophetic reading in service to and with the most abandoned, we act in way of the 36th General Chapter mandate as OMI-JPIC’ Animators in our regions. Today, over the last two years, we also continue responding to the poor and the planet through an animation in favor to empowerment of our people and a sustainable ecology. From this moment, with our new director (Fr. Jean-Hérick) and his efficient regional directors and animators, we are promoting awareness and motivating action in our Congregation towards participation in the movement of integral ecology (LSAP), inspired by Pope Francis.

In this manner, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI), reaffirms its support for all missionary efforts in favor of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. We also want to share with all Oblates, that our enrollment in the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform (LSAP) is part of our Congregation’s response and as a public commitment to work towards achieving the goals of integral ecology in our life and mission.