

# A Year with Fr. Brisson



*celebrating the centenary of the death of the Servant of God*

## THE REVEREND LOUIS BRISSON

(1817-1908)

priest and founder of the institutes of the  
Oblates and Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales

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### *First Friday Novena (#1)*

7 March 2008

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#### *The Direction of Intention*

Heavenly God, we give you this novena.  
We offer to You all of the good that we shall do.  
And we promise to accept, for love of You, all of the difficulty that we shall meet.  
Help us to conduct ourselves during this novena in a manner most pleasing to You.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES ... pray for us.

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#### *Fr. Brisson's STORY (Positio super virtutibus, p. lxvii-lxviii)*

(Sr. Augustine de Sales de Cuverville): "Our father loved to comment to us on the word of Our Lord, 'Seek first the kingdom of God and his justice, the rest will be given to you.' His entire life was consecrated to this double duty. He was consumed, one could say, to make the kingdom of God known and understood. He perfectly sought justice by his fidelity to respect and adore the order of God in souls and in all things. He had always recognized and loved the authority of God in his superiors, witnessing a filial obedience to them since his youth. His devotion, full of love for the holy Church and all its prescriptions, is expressed with a complete and joyous obedience to the least intentions or desires of the Sovereign Pontiff. Founder, director, inspirer, animator of numerous works, he always surrounded himself by authorized counsels, never acting except when the will of God was clearly manifest, seeking only the glory of God and the salvation of souls. His fervent fidelity to all his duties as a priest and a religious, his perfect conformity to the inspirations of grace, (and) his ardent zeal, united to the most supernatural prudence, attracted to him the esteem of all those who approached him and the veneration of souls who confided themselves to him ... ."

*Fr. Brisson's WORDS* (*Dans le Sillage de la Liturgie*, Friday of the 4<sup>th</sup> week of Lent)

Our vocation is a vocation of strength and of courage. St. Francis de Sales repeats very often in his conferences and his letters: "It is necessary to have good courage." Without doubt one can have in certain circumstances an energy of will, a strength of character, perhaps simply an instance of virtue which enables one to surmount a difficulty (or) achieve a victory. But that is not sufficient. The "good courage" that St. Francis de Sales asks of us is not an accidental courage, a momentary effort, an energy of an instant. He wishes that we be courageous and strong constantly: courageous in faith, courageous in virtue, courageous in duty. It is necessary that our courage be habitual, that we carry this constant energy in each difficulty, grand or light. Therein is our manner of acting; these are the processes that we must always follow in the midst of the fight.

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### *Oblate Reflections*

- Seasonal theme ... conversion (Lent)
- At the local level ... a meditation provided by a local Oblate preacher
- At the international level .... online text <[www.louisbrisson.org](http://www.louisbrisson.org)>

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(2006-present)

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### *Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God*

Lord, please visit and protect the family  
of the Oblate Sisters and Oblates of St. Francis de Sales,  
which is the vine Your all-powerful hand has planted  
through the work of Your servant, Louis Brisson.

For the glory of Your name  
make this family grow in Your love,  
and grant to it, for the joy of the whole Church,  
the recognition of the untiring zeal of its Founder for the Gospel  
and of his heroic courage in the midst of trials.

We ask this through Christ our Lord ... AMEN.

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+ May God Be Blessed +