

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

First Friday Novena (#4)

6 June 2008

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.

Fr. Brisson's STORY (Positio super virtutibus, p. lii-liii)

Sr. de Cuverville expresses better than any other what was the charity of the Servant of God: "The charity of the reverend father Brisson was universal, because it was based uniquely on supernatural motives. He loved, he respected the gift of God in each soul, and started always from there in order to deal with his neighbor. He often said to us that in each person, even the most underprivileged, there is always something of God and of His grace, some parcel of divine perfections in the intelligence, in the heart or in the will. Let us, therefore, see in each one what God has put there; in the one there is uprightness, in the other rectitude of judgment, zeal That should suffice for us to love and esteem him. If, besides that, there are found some rough edges, let us stop our eyes there, (for) that is the work of man, it is no more the gift of God, and it is God alone whom we seek. Behold this wise and fecund rule, in the midst of which we will always move ourselves to affection for our neighbor.

Fr. Brisson's WORDS (*Dans le Sillage de la Liturgie*, Friday of the 9th week of Ordinary Time)

An artisan perfects himself in the craft that he exercises, a painter in the painting, and so on. It is not necessary to believe that all religious have the same spirit and must perfect themselves in the same manner. Without doubt, all are agents of the Gospel, but they are agents who do not work in the same fashion. The interior life, as well as the exterior life, of our Institute must not be the same as that of all the others; otherwise we would be useless. It is necessary, therefore, to perfect ourselves according to the spirit of our Institute, by a punctual observance, relying on, says the Directory, "all the lights that we will receive, whether in lectures, conferences, prayers, confessions, sermons, or otherwise." All that we read, all that we see, all that we do, we must bring back to this base. That will marvelously enrich our intelligence, for all of it will converge toward the same point. To wish to do better than the Congregation would be a pretension little blessed. The exactitude of conforming oneself to the spirit of the Congregation, this punctuality is a grace, a special gift of God that one obtains by faithful observance. One loves his duty by preference over every other thing; one does it well and (by it) loves the other (things).

Oblate Reflections

- Seasonal theme ... openness to the Spirit (Pentecost)
- At the local level ... a meditation provided by a local Oblate preacher
- At the international level online text <www.louisbrisson.org>

Written by DIRK KOSTER, O.S.F.S.
Biographer of Fr. Brisson

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.

+ May God Be Blessed +