

# "A YEAR WITH FR. BRISSON"



*celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the servant of God*

## **FR. LOUIS BRISSON**

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

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### **Concept of the "Year"**

As is customary in the Church, special anniversary occasions are celebrated with a "year" of attention. The centenary of our Fr. Brisson's death affords the OSFS a unique opportunity to celebrate the life and legacy of our Founder.

This plan engages OSFS worldwide in a spiritual "novena" to mark this occasion. This liturgical exercise is not the promotion of a cult (i.e., for the intercession of Fr. Brisson), but a collective prayer by our Oblate congregation on behalf of the cause of beatification/canonization of our Founder (i.e., prayer for Fr. Brisson).

The "year" of Fr. Brisson includes three major elements:

- The year begins on February 2, 2008 with the international celebrations in France for the centenary of his death.
- The year continues with a worldwide "novena" by the Oblates on the First Fridays of each month, from March through November 2008.
- The year concludes with the local celebrations of the annual renewal of vows by the Oblates on November 21, 2008.

### **Participants in the "Year of Fr. Brisson"**

This centenary celebration is intended primarily for the members of our own congregation, particularly in their own individual and communal lives.

The Oblate Sisters will be invited to join in prayer with us and to participate in the novena for our common Founder.

The novena may be adopted for use in Oblate apostolates, as a means of drawing others into our Oblate heritage and spirituality.

## The NOVENA for the Cause of Fr. Brisson

FORMAT - the novena will include four brief elements (see the example for March 7, 2008)

(1) Fr. Brisson's story -- a selection from his biography (excerpted from the *Positio super virtutibus*) so that we might come to know our Founder better

(2) Fr. Brisson's words -- a selection from his instructions corresponding to the liturgical celebration of the day (excerpted from *Dans le Sillage de la Liturgies avec le P. Louis Brisson*), so that we might learn again from our Founder

(3) Reflection on Fr. Brisson -- a brief sermon or meditation, so that we might appropriate our Founder's story and words for Oblate life today

(3a) for communal celebrations, a local Oblate could be invited to give the meditation

(3b) for each month we will also provide, on the international web site, a meditation composed by someone invited to do so. The following are suggestions:

|           |                             |   |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---|
| March     | Lent - conversion           | Fr. Aldino Kiesel, current successor to Fr. Brisson                                     |
| April     | Easter - new life in Christ | Fr. Lewis Fiorelli, previous successor to Fr. Brisson                                   |
| May       | Mary - Our Lady of Light    | Fr. Roger Balducelli, previous successor to Fr. Brisson                                 |
| June      | Pentecost - open to Spirit  | Fr. Dirk Koster, biographer (June = birth of Fr. Brisson)                               |
| July      | Eucharist                   | Fr. Dave Whalen, provincial superior, Toledo-Detroit                                    |
| August    | The Directory - confidence  | Mother Françoise-Bernadette, OSFS, superior general (Aug = first profession of Oblates) |
| September | Missionary spirit           | Bishop John Minder or Fr. Josef Költringer  |
| October   | "Way" of the Good Mother    | Fr. Michel Tournade (Oct = first profession of Sisters)                                 |
| November  | consecration - vows         | Sr. Madeleine-Thérèse Dechambre, OSFS, postulator                                       |

(4) Prayer for the Beatification of Fr. Brisson -- a universal and common prayer, so that we might, in spirit, intercede for the advancement of his cause

USAGE - the novena may be adopted, according to local custom, in a variety of ways:

(1) as a personal exercise of prayer

(2) as part of communal Morning or Evening prayer of the Church

(3) as part of a communal/public Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

(4) as a post-Communion meditation during the celebration of Mass

*submitted by THOMAS F. DAILEY, O.S.F.S.  
approved by the Superior General  
10 January 2008*