

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 (#3)

2 May 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. xlvi)

(Sr. Augustine de Sales de Cuverville): "The venerable Fr. Brisson loved the good God with considerations that one finds only among the saints. I believe that he would never have been able to offend Him voluntarily, even in the least things, and that he had at heart (the will) to combat his least imperfections. We have had proof of it in his manner of acting every day, in the insistence he made to recommend to us this considered fidelity which refuses nothing to the good God, and even more perhaps in the often marvelous manner by which Our Lord was pleased to respond to this fidelity, by making all the things in his hands successful, by filling him with supernatural lights for the direction of souls, by giving him formal assurances about the future of his works. ... It seems to me that he was able to say, as did St. Francis de Sales: 'If I have one sole thread of affection that was not to God or for God, I would tear it out quite suddenly'."

Fr. Brisson's WORDS (*Dans le Sillage de la Liturgie*, Friday of the 6th week of Easter)

It is necessary to arrive at Paradise by the shortest route. And, fortunately for us, we have Paradise at our door; we do not have to go far to search for it. Our Lord has already come to open Paradise for us. The saints inspired by Him have found the means to pave the way for us. And, among these means, St. Francis de Sales has found an excellent one; it is the practice of the Directory. Paradise is the Will of God, and his Will for us is the Directory. When one sees the Will of God in his Directory, and when one has decided to practice it at all costs, one is quite near to heaven. But this is not yet the luminous heaven of the beatific vision. It is the heaven where one needs (the help of) Our Lady of Light to understand; it is the heaven of submission to the Will of God, the heaven of suffering, of hope. Let us work for heaven; let us bear all our sufferings, our miseries, the weights of our spiritual and corporeal infirmities, and we will enter into a glory that will never end.

Oblate Reflections

- Seasonal theme ... Our Lady of Light (Mary)
- At the local level ... a meditation provided by a local Oblate preacher
- At the international level online text <www.louisbrisson.org>

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(1982-1994)

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 +