

# 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 (#6)*

1 August 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. lix)*

(Sr. Madeleine de Sales Pupey-Girard): "He put into everything a supernatural prudence, for he prayed always before acting; he expressed some repugnance for the extraordinary; he recommended not believing without proofs (and) sometimes he himself asked for a heavenly attestation before deciding. He was to give this counsel to certain persons because they had recognized his prudence. In the material order he acted with a great prudence in order to safeguard the goods of his communities. In his problems with his bishop, before doing anything, he took the advice of his ecclesiastical superiors. He never spoke with commotion, but always briefly and gently; he adjusted his counsels to the measure of those who solicited advice from him, and he received this from all classes of society. In everything he put to use good sense and level-headedness. He never pressed himself; before responding he prayed and reflected sometimes rather lengthily. ... He was worried about what could happen to his children often isolated abroad, although he was convinced that the Directory would be their sufficient and necessary support. His circumspection was utmost; he wrapped himself always in perfect discretion. He discerned in remarkable fashion the aptitudes of

each one, even when the one involved ignored them. His continual recourse to the good God demonstrates well his defiance of himself.

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*Fr. Brisson's WORDS* (*Dans le Sillage de la Liturgie*, Friday of the 17<sup>th</sup> week of Ordinary Time)

Let us believe in God, in his grace, in his goodness. Let us have a great faith, a great confidence in the Word of God. As in the time of our Lord, many no longer believe. But without faith, there is no more hope; one goes with the other. Let us have faith, a faith that does not allow itself to be shaken, for faith obtains everything from God. God is truly our Father. Let us be sure that if we have recourse to Him with confidence, He will send us proofs of his goodness, spiritual and temporal helps which we would not expect. It is certainly not necessary to tempt God, but it is certain that faith, prayer, (and) work obtain marvelous things from Him. Have this confidence, and you will never be deceived. "Give me, Lord, a living, ardent faith! May I be blessed to believe as did the Holy Virgin, as did the apostle Peter, as did the Canaanite, as did the centurion. O Lord, increase in me this beautiful light of faith!"

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### *Oblate Reflections*

- Seasonal theme ... the Directory
- 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)>

Written by MICHEL TOURNADE, O.S.F.S.  
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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 +