

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 (#8)

3 October 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. xlix-l)

(Sr. de Cuverville): "The secret to the success of our father, of the divine blessings that accompanied all his enterprises, lies wholly in the supernatural life that never ceased to be his. This life is summarized in two points: (1) to depend on the will of God in each instant, a will manifested by his ecclesiastical superiors, by his priestly obligations, his duties as founder, his rule and his institutes, by the events willed or permitted by Providence; (2) to imitate wherever possible the life of the Savior on earth, and for that to hold him in fixed regard in order to be conformed interiorly and exteriorly to Our Lord by a continual renunciation of all human inclinations, and a constant mortification of all his being, after the example of St. Francis de Sales. The Good Mother called this giving all for all. For our father, fidelity to this life of union and of giving back to God was simply the realization of the desire of Our Lord ... it is the Gospel practiced to the letter. He told us a number of times and demonstrated to us by his examples that the principal goal of his foundations was to lead souls to understand this life and to put it into practice, by the means that St. Francis de Sales furnishes to us to arrive there."

Fr. Brisson's WORDS (Dans le Sillage de la Liturgie, Friday of the 26th week of Ordinary Time)

Let us look into our heart for that which is displeasing to God. Let us search also for the virtue that we lack, in order to take the means of acquiring it and making it the goal of our efforts. Let us examine this seriously in order to see if our heart is entirely in its place, to see if it is God's, so that it be a heart quite pure, devoid of all evil or even imperfect affection. There is a certain person whom, in general, one loves a little too much - it is our self. And the affection that we bear ourselves is hardly fruitful. Let us consider whether we do not find this person a little too good, if we do not discover in him a number of qualities that we prefer over others and by which we could flatter ourselves to the detriment of our neighbor. Let us ask ourselves whether the Savior can come into our heart without finding it divided, as a place of rest that is entirely His. It is necessary that all that is of ourselves disappear and that the Savior alone be all that is found in us.

Oblate Reflections

- Seasonal theme ... the "Way" of the Good Mother
- At the local level ... a meditation provided by a local Oblate preacher
- At the international level online text <www.louisbrisson.org>

Written by Mother FRANÇOISE-BERNADETTE, 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.

+ May God Be Blessed +