

The members of the Oblate family connect with each other through this prayer on the third Sunday every month.

ORAISON

15th December 2024

EN

EVANGELIUM LIVE: Lk 3,10-18

I often find myself longing for new impulses (through travelling, meeting new people, reading, trying new food and having new experiences...). But sometimes I feel that I don't see the fact that this desire does not come from within me, but as if it were being pressed out of me by my environment and my situation as if I had to fulfil the expectations of others. I overlook my own boundaries through the feeling of never having this opportunity again and out of fear of not experiencing this again. After all, I have to do everything perfectly and be there for everyone.

There are many things we cannot just leave out, but we can determine the level we can handle and where we can afford to lose. Like John, we can try to accept our vocation and let go of what weighs us down. Even trivial things like baking Christmas cookies in the Advent season. Is it something that makes me happy and fulfils my calling? As a mother, daughter, father, grandmother, friend, ...? Or is it outside my vocation, beyond my strength and only distracting me from my journey and what I want to focus on?



And so I would like to encourage us to place this Advent season in the hands of the Lord, to leave our difficulties to him and devote ourselves to what the Lord has truly called us to do. Perhaps we can do without the Linzer cookies, the pre-Christmas cleaning and the daily attendance at the Rorate Mass. Let us not burden ourselves with work and let us not try to fulfil the demands and expectations of others. Let us be like John, full of expectation. Let us accept our vocation and bear witness to the coming of the true Messiah.

Fr Mario Borzaga OMI before his final profession in 1956

I have understood my vocation: to be a happy man, even while trying to identify myself with Christ crucified.

Luke 3,10-18

The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two tunics should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan[g] is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

