

Bishop Tremblay
meets Pope Leo XIV

Fraternal Gathering of Fellow Oblate Bishops

Dear brothers and sisters of the diocese,

I have just returned from an international meeting of Oblate bishops which has left a deep impression on me and which I would like to share with you with great gratitude. For several days, bishops from Asia, Africa, South America, Australia, Ukraine and Canada gathered to pray together, reflect on our mission and discuss the realities experienced in our respective dioceses. This meeting was truly inspiring.



I was deeply moved by the testimonies I heard. Some of my fellow bishops carry out their ministry in regions marked by war, poverty, population displacement or even severe social and religious tensions. Despite these immense challenges, their hope remains alive and their missionary commitment impressive. They continue to proclaim the Gospel with courage, closeness and simplicity. Their stories reminded me of just how universal the Church is and how our faith unites us across borders, languages and cultures.

During this meeting, I had the opportunity to give a talk on the challenges of mission in modern, largely secularised societies such as our own. I shared some of the realities we face at home, notably the search for meaning among many people, the desire for spiritual authenticity, but also the difficulties linked to religious indifference and the loss of community values. The discussions that followed were rich and fraternal. Several bishops acknowledged that they, each in their own way, face similar challenges.

One of the most moving moments of this pilgrimage was undoubtedly the

celebration of the Eucharist in the very chapel where Saint Eugene de Mazenod, founder of the Oblates, was ordained a bishop in 1832. Praying in this place steeped in history and missionary fervour was a special grace for me.

There I felt a deep sense of communion with our Oblate family and with all those who, for nearly two centuries, have dedicated their lives to proclaiming the Gospel.

We also attended Pope Leo's general audience. I had the joy of being able to shake his hand personally. It was a simple yet deeply moving moment that will remain etched in my memory.

I also carry with me the memory of many moments of fellowship experienced during this gathering. Beyond the conferences and celebrations, the shared meals, conversations and times of prayer allowed us to better understand the joys and sufferings of the people we serve. I was particularly impressed by the missionary creativity of several dioceses, often with very few material resources. This experience reminded me that the Church's mission does not depend primarily on our resources, but on our ability to listen, to accompany and to bear humble witness to the presence of Christ in today's world. I give thanks to the Lord for this experience, which has deeply strengthened my pastoral hope.

I return from this personal pilgrimage very happy, encouraged in my ministry and filled with hope for the mission that brings us together here, in our diocese. Thank you for your faithful prayers. I assure you of mine.

Diocese of Hearst-Moosonee

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Bishop

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