

# DE MAZENOD FAMILY FEAST DAY RESOURCE PACK

Dear Oblate/Ministry Leader,

On the 3 December we celebrate the De Mazenod Family Feast Day, on the very day Eugene de Mazenod was declared a canonised saint by the Catholic Church.

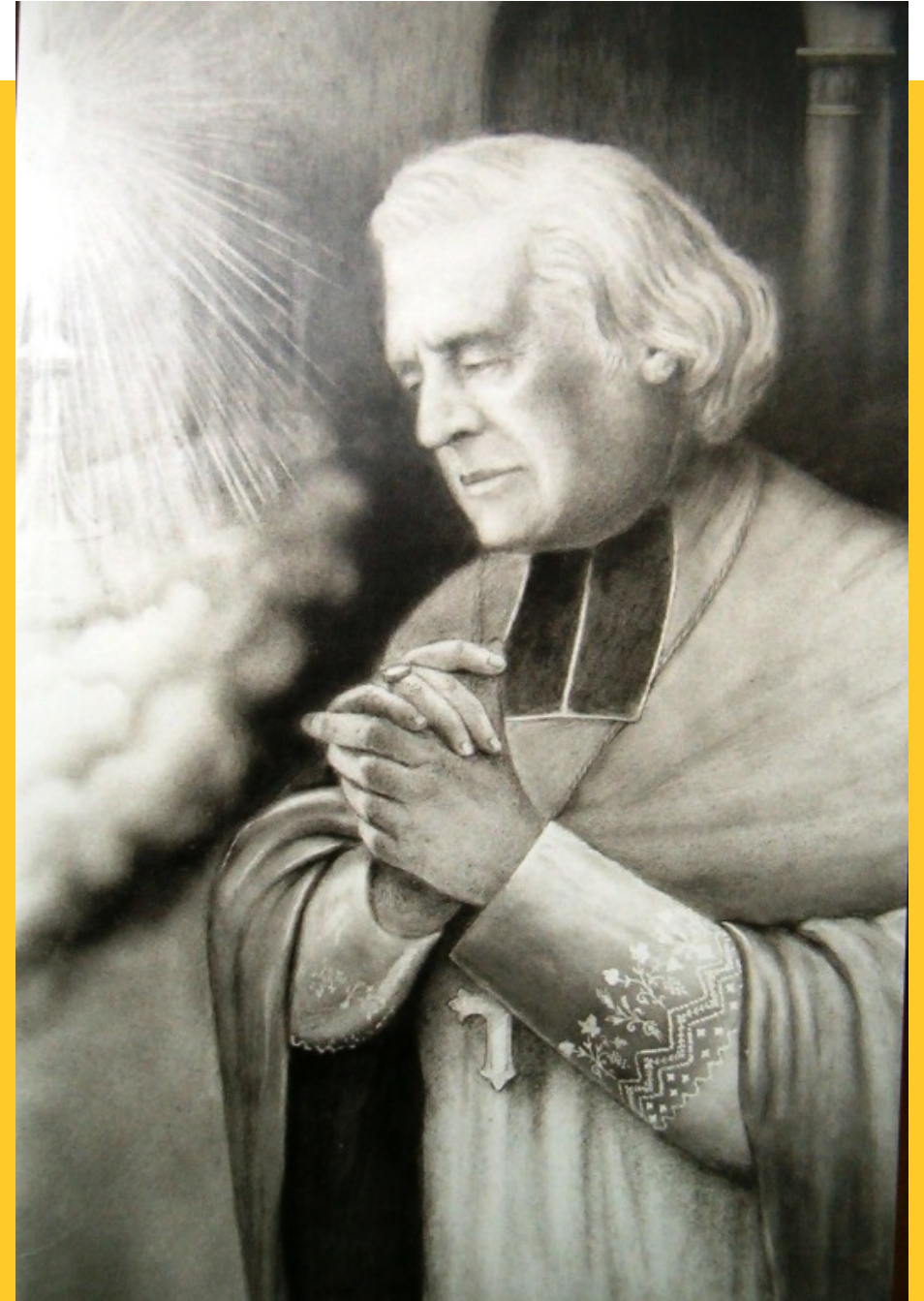
Below are several resources that can be used to celebrate this day including one on his canonisation, and a staff resource, as well as others you may be familiar with.

It is intended that the resources can be used as relevant to the various ministries. Depending on the restrictions in your area you might also consider some means of a social gathering at some point to help reconnect the broader community.

Please contact me if I can be of any help in this.

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De Mazenod Family  
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See <https://demazenodfamily.com.au> for other general resources:  
Moments of Grace, Advent Programs, Family Chat Series, links to courses,  
Oblate videos, other Prayer Resources and reflections, Litany Program.



Resources :

Link to Mass template  
Canonisation Miracles  
Becoming a Saint the De Mazenod Way  
Growing as family  
Staff Resource  
Prayer for families  
Word and children's activities



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## SUGGESTED USE OF RESOURCES

### Resource 1 - Mass Resources

Mass will be celebrated and live-streamed on the 3 December from St Kieran's Parish, Moe for those who may like to partake online in the Mass. This will also be available for download from the De Mazenod YouTube channel to use within a local context, at a time convenient to the specific Ministry.

A Mass template is also provided for use if Mass can be celebrated within the local community to mark the day. This can be accessed via the link provided in the resource. The template includes an introduction and Prayers of the Faithful that can be included as is or modified to suit the local community needs.

### Resource 2 & 3 - Resources on Canonisation

Resource 2 contains details on the miracles used for St Eugene's canonisation. The reflection and activity at the end highlight the many ways in which we can experience miracles in our lives. Resource 3 looks at St Eugene's spirituality and ways we can be saints. These can be used as a handout or attached to a Ministry newsletter, or presented for group discussion.

### Resource 4, 5 & 6 - Resources on being family

Resource 4 looks at what it is to be family and how we can do one thing better as family. This can be printed out or used as a discussion trigger. Resource 5 recognises that staff within the De Mazenod Family have a particular opportunity to live out the charism in their roles. This resource can be used at a staff gathering or meeting, or one or two reflections may be included in staff correspondence. Resource 6 is a Prayer for Families that can be handed out at Mass or included in newsletters.

### Resources 7, 8, 9 & 10 - Fun activities

These can be used, inserted within or attached to newsletters, or as handouts, or used as ice breakers at a morning tea.



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## RESOURCE 1

# Mass template

Below is the link to a Mass template for those who might be interested in using it to mark the DMF Feast Day. It will also be on the DMF website. There will also be a Live-Streamed Mass for those who would like to partake in it. Details at <https://demazenodfamily.com.au>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C5qJ9xR4kl1zG0YMLI25dXxETLzonNeO/view?usp=sharing>



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## RESOURCE 2

### CANONISATION MIRACLES

#### **Miracle One – 1929**

Healing of a 9-year old boy of “tuberculous cervical lymphadenitis”. The disease consists of a gradual enlarging of abscesses that turn into open wounds and result in fever, chills and weight loss.

The little boy from an Oblate mission in Canada was in a critical condition when an Oblate priest prayed over him and attached a prayer card of the Servant of God – Eugene de Mazenod. Within four days, the boy was completely healed with no scientific explanation possible for the rapid healing. Medical checks confirmed the duration of the scientifically inexplicable cure and the incident was declared a miracle in 1974.

#### **Miracle Three – 1987**

Healing of a 55-year old man of cancer of the bile ducts.

The man was from Mexico City, and a father of two children. Having lost 30 kg as a result of the cancer and too weak to undergo surgery or chemotherapy, he was receiving palliative care at his home.

From an Oblate Parish, the family, the parish Congregation and a specific prayer group from the Parish started reciting the Novena of the Servant of God Eugene De Mazenod for his cure.

On the last evening of the Novena, the man went into a terminal state with increased pain. The next day however, the man was healed, able to wash himself, and gradually increased in strength and health, returning to work within 6 months.

Repeated medical tests clearly indicated that the cancer was completely gone. Doctors described the cure as exceptional and scientifically inexplicable. This miracle, along with the earlier two were used for the Canonisation of Eugene De Mazenod.

#### **Miracle Two – 1947**

Healing of a 1 ½ year old boy of permanent blindness.

The boy, born into a poor family in Canada, fell from a three metre height when his pram rolled off the edge. This led to cranial damage and medically diagnosed permanent blindness.

The boy's mother took the blind child on a pilgrimage to the Oblate Marian Shrine of “Notre-Dame-du Cap”. The Oblate priest in charge there asked her to pray the Novena of the Servant of God Eugene De Mazenod, and touched the boy's eyes with the relic and prayer card of St Eugene.

Upon returning home the next day, the boy's eyesight was healed. Medical checks confirmed the duration of the scientifically inexplicable cure and the incident was declared a miracle in 1974.

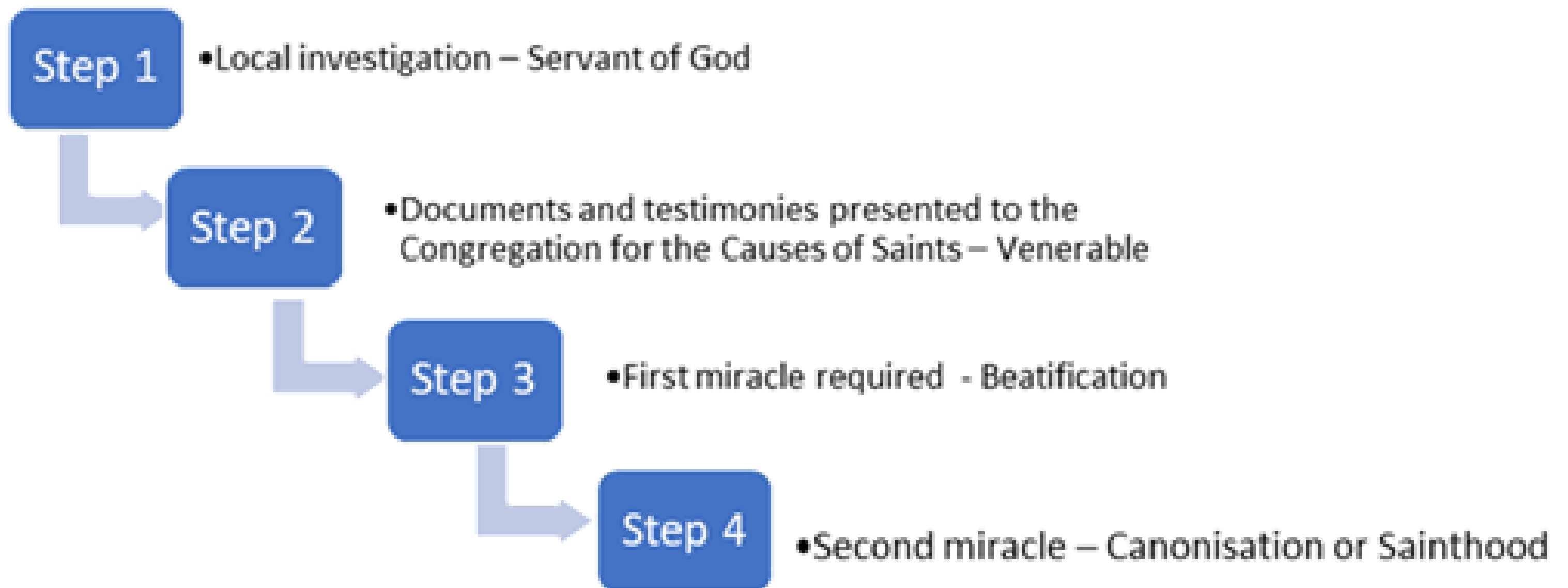


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## RESOURCE 2 contd

### CANONISATION PROCESS



## miracles in our Lives

I do believe we have all experienced it - but infused in a world driven by the need for proof, that scoffs at the instinctive and lauds the scientific - many of us solid believers are reluctant to even note the supernatural in our lives, to acknowledge the intimate interaction of God. We are afraid of being laughed at, or being seen as "pious", or simple, or being accused of spiritually big-noting ourselves.

And so we ignore, the time the neighbour just happened to drop in at the right moment to help us with a crisis; or the local pharmacy that happened to stay opened well past closing time when our child had the flu; or the whispered reminder to check that the stove had been turned off. We call it "lucky" when our favourite pair of earrings just missed falling into the sink hole, or that the car hurtling through the red light missed colliding with our car by a whisker.

And yet, God interacted directly with many in the Bible - defended, chastised, healed, plucked from the dead. He continues to perform "miracles" unexplained by science, upending nature on occasion to show us Who's boss, and remind us that He is the Creator controlling the created. Spend a few moments looking back over the last month. Allow any moments of God to come to you. Thank God for any opportunities of feeling God's presence amidst our day-to-day activities.

If you feel so moved, email us a note about any particular miraculous moments you've had. These give others a 'miracle moment' onto which they can hold when they are struggling to see God in their circumstances ([demazenodfamily@oblates.com.au](mailto:demazenodfamily@oblates.com.au))



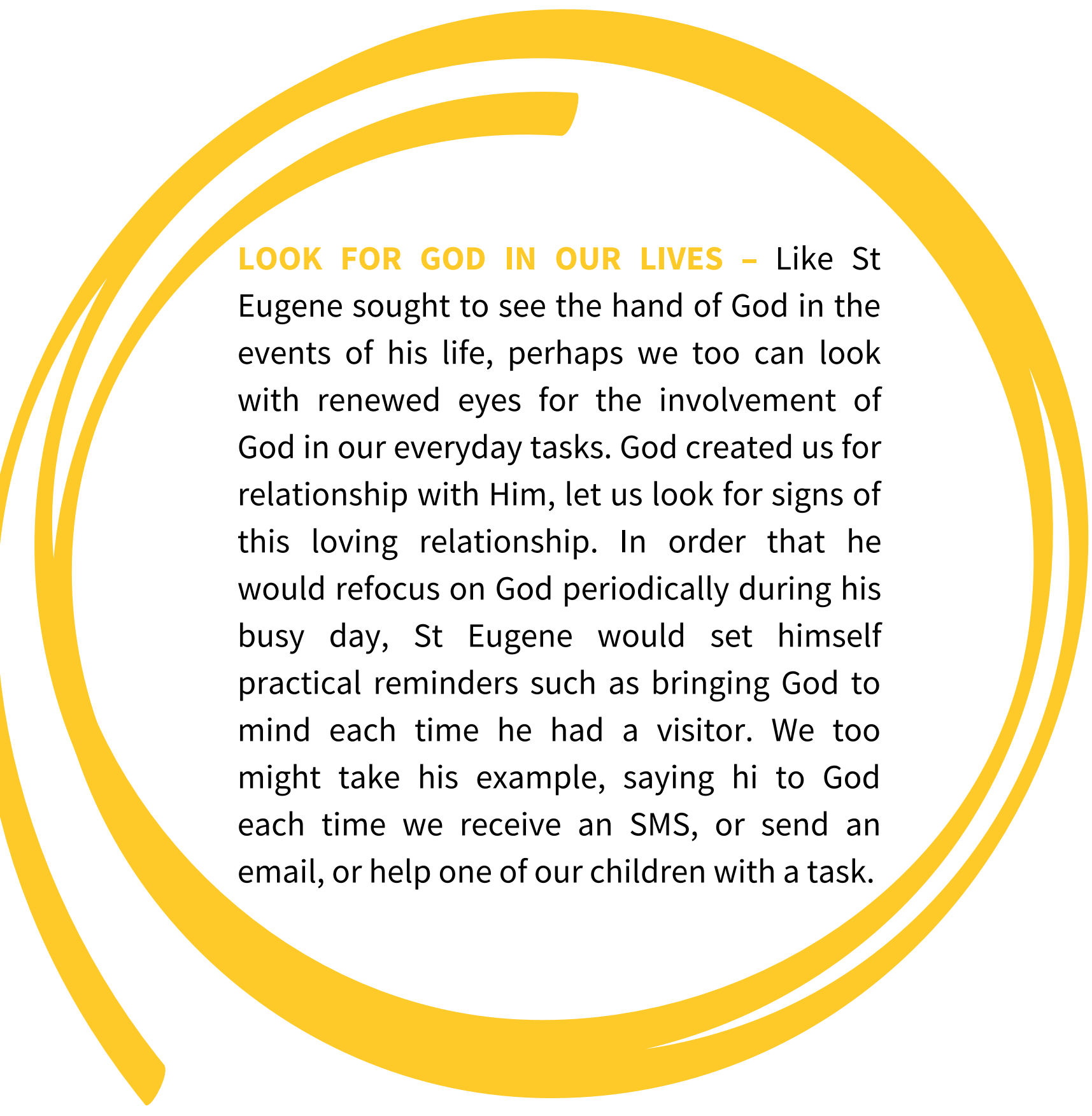
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## RESOURCE 3

### BECOMING A SAINT, THE DE MAZENOD WAY

For many of us, being a saint is not a clear and tangible goal. In the too hard basket for some, for most of us, it does not even make it onto our to-do list. This might be the result of us being aware of the extraordinary, canonised saints, those that levitate, bi-locate and heal the unhealable. The type of saints that abandon everything, including their families, the very clothes they were wearing, and often their very lives, in response to the surging love they have for God. Few of us seem to have that kind of zeal and extraordinary love, and find it easier to distance ourselves from these kind of saints, the extraordinary feats of these saints creating a clear and solid separation between us the 'ordinary', and they the great and holy. Rather than examples to imitate, these saints can sometimes be a guilty reminder of how far off the spiritual mark we can be. In this regard, sainthood might even seem an unrealistic, even arrogant, pursuit.

Yet, St Eugene de Mazenod gives us a model of sanctity that is realistic for those of us who are more ordinary. St Eugene shows us that we can be 'real', yet holy. He was someone with a temper, someone who could at times be dominant and strong-willed. He cried in grief at the death of his priests, grumbled to God when things did not work out. Using St Eugene as an example, we see that our personality traits do not need to prevent us from being saints. The following are some De Mazenod steps to a deeper relationship with God.



**LOOK FOR GOD IN OUR LIVES** – Like St Eugene sought to see the hand of God in the events of his life, perhaps we too can look with renewed eyes for the involvement of God in our everyday tasks. God created us for relationship with Him, let us look for signs of this loving relationship. In order that he would refocus on God periodically during his busy day, St Eugene would set himself practical reminders such as bringing God to mind each time he had a visitor. We too might take his example, saying hi to God each time we receive an SMS, or send an email, or help one of our children with a task.

**LISTEN FOR GOD** – St Eugene sought God's "adorable will" in his life. To know God's will, we need to become familiar with God's ways of doing things, His characteristics, His voice and His heart. Perhaps we can find a small way each day to "get to know" God. Consider setting five minutes aside each day to ask God to tell you a bit about Himself.

**RAW HONESTY WITH GOD** - St Eugene was known to speak honestly, with those around him, as well as with God. One time, after yet another young priest in his charge had died, he burst into tears and asked God what He wanted of him. "You load us with work and then you snatch away our Oblates in the flower of their youth...", he said to God, reminding us of the importance of maintaining raw honesty with God. The more honest we are with God - the source of all truth - the more solid our communication with God, and the more real our relationship with God.



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## RESOURCE 3 contd

### RESPONDING TO LOVE

This becomes the difficult part of seeking holiness. Sometimes we keenly listen for God's will, we hear it loud and clear – and then hope we heard it wrong, if the message is inconvenient to our way of thinking! The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

St Eugene offers us a palatable way of following God's will, through the example of his conversion 'moment'. Initially, he was drawn to what a noble life had to offer, saying to his father that "as long as I remember I have set my ambition on being famous ...". Yet, St Eugene promptly left all behind when he experienced God's love for him in a profound way. But not until then.

When we are faced with responding to something difficult that God is asking of us, instead of gritting our teeth and using every bit of willpower to act on it, perhaps we can find a moment to sit with God and ask that we might feel more deeply His love for us. Love better motivates our actions.

### PREACHING THROUGH OUR NEIGHBOUR

In particular, we are called to respond in love towards our neighbour. From a young age, St Eugene was acutely aware of the needs of others, known to have dragged a pile of wood one winter as a little boy to neighbours whom he thought did not have adequate heating. The Oblate ministry that he went on to establish focussed on the needs of the poor and abandoned, the uneducated and the youth.

We too might pay particular attention to the needs of those around us; those less heard, less appreciated, less loved. We might seek to be sensitive to those in our personal groups who do not get a chance to voice their views, and ask them their thoughts. We might note those on the outer in a social gathering, and sit beside them. We might note those that tend to abrade, and show them particular affection.

In doing this, we show God's love to others. To bear the imprint of the Gospel, we focus on keeping our hearts adequately soft by following the example of St Eugene's heart, one well-softened by suffering, compassionate towards others, supple in response to their needs.

### NOURISHMENT

To do this, to respond in love to our neighbour, St Eugene de Mazenod clearly recognised the importance of nourishing ourselves spiritually. He recommended to his Oblate priests, time in Adoration and daily prayer, knowing we can give only from what we have received. Depleted of spiritual nourishment, giving from the bottom of our barrel, we can, at times, do more harm than good to our neighbour.

The De Mazenod way to sainthood is one of honesty, of practicality and sincerity, confident in the knowledge that God knows our heart, our weaknesses, our desires. Our sanctity comes not from our efforts, but in our awareness of God's love for us. Know this love, and we cannot help but respond with heroic virtue.



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## RESOURCE 4

### Staff Resource

- Welcome /Introduction
- Gospel - Luke 4:14-22a
- Hearing the Spirit in our lives through St Eugene's words
- (Reflection - Becoming a saint the De Mazenod Way)
- Invite any prayers of the faithful
- Concluding prayer - De Mazenod Family Prayer

#### De Mazenod Family Prayer

Holy Father, We come to you because Jesus asked us to pray that you send workers into your harvest. Therefore, send us generous men and women, passionate for Jesus, willing to make of their whole life a total oblation to You, to become close to the poorest and most abandoned, and to proclaim the Gospel. Send us, Lord, people willing to share the charism of our Founder, Saint Eugene De Mazenod, conscious of the call of God to be part of the De Mazenod Family and serve the poor and the most abandoned. Under the inspiration and protection of Mary Immaculate, help us as we encounter our brothers and sisters and offer them Jesus, the source of our hope, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



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## RESOURCE 4 contd

### Introduction

Today as a community we mark the canonisation of St Eugene de Mazenod. As staff within the de Mazenod family we are given a particular chance to identify with the person of St Eugene and his charism. Though a canonised saint, he provides us a real model for living a Christian life, one that is accessible to the average Christian. He shows us that we can be holy without being perfect, that we can have contradictions in our lives while yearning for God.

In this prayer service, we will listen to the Gospel reading that has been selected for day, along with several snippets of writing from St Eugene to help us reflect on how we too might grow in holiness.

Before we begin I invite you to take a few deep breaths and bring yourself in to this moment of prayer. The Oblate priests typically spend daily time in silence, in front of the Blessed Eucharist, as St Eugene recognised the importance of this practice in sustaining them and fuelling their action. In fact he says “In the prolonged silent prayer we make each day we let ourselves be moulded by the Lord and find in him the inspiration of our conduct.” (If sitting in a Chapel) as we sit in this chapel, we are reminded that we sit before the Blessed Eucharist, which we as Catholics, believe is God, physically present, let us allow God to gently mould us and help us grow.

### OPENING PRAYER

Sign of the Cross

O God, in your mercy, you blessed your Bishop Saint Eugene de Mazenod with the zeal of an apostle to preach the Good News to the nations. Grant that by his intercession we may be filled with the same spirit and dedicate ourselves wholeheartedly to the service of the Church and the salvation of all. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



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## RESOURCE 4 contd

### GOSPEL READING

+A reading from the holy gospel according to St Luke (Luke 4:14-22a)

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee;  
and his reputation spread throughout the countryside.  
He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazareth where he had been brought up,  
and went into the synagogue on the sabbath as he usually did.  
He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah.

Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives,  
and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free,  
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour".

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down.

And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him.

Then he began to speak to them,

"This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen".

And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished  
by the gracious words that came from his lips.

The Gospel of the Lord.



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## RESOURCE 4 contd

### Reflections

The following are snippets of writings from St Eugene. You are invited to listen out to any that resonate with you, something that challenges you or relates in particular to what you are going through right now. There will be a pause for a few moments after each statement, for reflection on how the Holy Spirit might speak to us through them.

Come, and I will show you who you are in the eyes of God

Charity (or love) is the pivotal point on which our existence revolves

Hold on to (God) and fear nothing, drink the cup of his bitterness since he allows to let you share in his passion, but do not doubt that he will soon fill you with his sweetest joys.

(speaking to his order) People can be drawn towards us by the good quality of our virtues, by the witness of our regularity, by our simplicity our interior spirit...let us really be what we ought to be and we shall see that people will come to us...

And the final one, a big one...We must strive to be saints...



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## RESOURCE 5

# Growing as family



How can we, in our different Oblate Ministries,  
do one thing better as Family?



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## RESOURCE 6

# Prayer for families

Dear St Eugene, patron saint of wounded families,

Come to the aid of our families. Allow to permeate in each member an amiable care and affection for each other. Soften the effects of any quarrels, keep away disregard, dishonesty and bitterness. Refresh us from our brokenness, soothe the pain from the past, and instill in each of us ready forgiveness and inner peace.

You know well the difficulties and trials of a wounded family through the divorce of your parents, and deep family tensions. May all who suffer these family hardships seek your intercession to discern more clearly how the Light of Jesus Christ can help them in the midst of their darkness and despair.

Jesus and Mary, we surrender our families to you.

Amen.



"young Eugene de Mazenod's devotion to Mary in Venice"



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## RESOURCE 7

# PICTIONARY

At least two teams with two people per team are required to play.

1. Write the words below on separate pieces of paper, fold and add to a bowl.
2. Ask one person from one team to select a word and draw it on a piece of paper (or whiteboard) for the rest of the team to guess what it is (while the other team stays silent). Pictionary rules apply, such as giving no verbal clues and not drawing letters and numbers. Allow for a time limit for guessing and add a score to the team's tally for each guessed drawing.
3. Continue the process with the other teams while keeping track of the scores.
4. Alternative: let other teams guess the word if the original team is unsuccessful in guessing within the time limit, giving the chance to take each other's points.

### **Pictionary words:**

Saint, poor, family, priest, France,  
miracle, mission, prayer, Rosies, school,  
Mass, sick child, community, charisma



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RESOURCE 8

FAMILY BINGO  
playing cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

De Mazenod Family Bingo

Outreach	Peace	Charism	Generous
Mass	Prison	Poor	Earth
Oblate	Easter	Mercy	Eugene
Exile	Wine	Spirit	Christ

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

De Mazenod Family Bingo

Family	Oblate	Generous	Church
Exile	Peace	Prayer	Outreach
Mass	Poor	Gospel	Giving
Faith	Transformation	Easter	Discernment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

De Mazenod Family Bingo

Mass	Outreach	Charism	Gospel
Mercy	Wine	Easter	Family
Giving	Generous	Church	Prison
Prayer	Discernment	Spirit	Trust

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

De Mazenod Family Bingo

Outreach	Prayer	Transformation	Light
Giving	Mass	Spirit	Mass
Mercy	Wine	Easter	Poverty
Discernment	Christ	Faith	Charism





## RESOURCE 8 contd

# FAMILY BINGO

## playing cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### De Mazenod Family Bingo

Prison	Easter	Poor	Mass
Christ	Faith	Prayer	Eugene
Poverty	Earth	Trust	Discernment
Exile	Charism	Light	Gospel

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### De Mazenod Family Bingo

Mass	Exile	Christ	Spirit
Easter	Family	Transformation	Gospel
Church	Wine	Charism	Giving
Poverty	Outreach	Eugene	Prison

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### De Mazenod Family Bingo

Oblate	Light	Zeal	Prayer
Generous	Mass	Wine	Poverty
Prison	Earth	Discernment	Church
Transformation	Peace	Christ	Faith

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### De Mazenod Family Bingo

Mercy	Peace	Outreach	Exile
Family	Zeal	Transformation	Church
Wine	Spirit	Light	Prison
Earth	Oblate	Giving	Eugene



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## RESOURCE 8 contd

# FAMILY BINGO playing cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### De Mazenod Family Bingo

Trust	Discernment	Gospel	Spirit
Mass	Wine	Oblate	Mass
Zeal	Transformation	Faith	Peace
Charism	Christ	Poor	Poverty

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### De Mazenod Family Bingo

Charism	Mass	Family	Earth
Spirit	Wine	Mass	Prison
Discernment	Transformation	Church	Faith
Generous	Exile	Trust	Poverty

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### De Mazenod Family Bingo

Trust	Eugene	Family	Oblate
Church	Poverty	Peace	Prison
Spirit	Mass	Wine	Exile
Zeal	Gospel	Discernment	Easter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### De Mazenod Family Bingo

Prayer	Charism	Spirit	Mass
Eugene	Oblate	Giving	Peace
Christ	Poverty	Church	Light
Prison	Trust	Wine	Gospel



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## RESOURCE 8 contd

# FAMILY BINGO

## playing cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### De Mazenod Family Bingo

Discernment	Exile	Prayer	Peace
Mercy	Church	Trust	Charism
Wine	Family	Spirit	Easter
Outreach	Poverty	Gospel	Christ

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### De Mazenod Family Bingo

Poverty	Wine	Family	Giving
Exile	Mass	Discernment	Faith
Church	Transformation	Mass	Poor
Oblate	Eugene	Charism	Gospel

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### De Mazenod Family Bingo

Oblate	Mass	Trust	Poor
Faith	Easter	Outreach	Christ
Charism	Giving	Mass	Earth
Wine	Discernment	Spirit	Peace



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RESOURCE 8 contd

# FAMILY BINGO

## words

Exile

Mass

Poor

Faith

Oblate

Poverty

Light

Transformation

Generous

Giving

Peace

Zeal

Eugene

Charism

Outreach

Prayer

Earth

Easter

Mercy

Prison

Church

Wine

Spirit

Family

Mass

Christ

Gospel

Discernment

Trust



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## RESOURCE 9

# SENIOR WORD SEARCH

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

J H U B R E A D M R L Y V F H C U  
Q Y M X W Q E P E X V E P A G P F  
Q I F A Y R D Q Y F N L Y L F G C  
H R W P S R Y F G I C K Z K U W K  
C B D N S S L B W L D W Q T X B I  
A E T A R B E L E C K L V Z B A W  
N K K R N Z S A X F F T J Y P Q B  
O L Z S I O N E I S F E R G D U T  
N O W O G H M Z S R L G E C A E P  
I V Z R T F L E O C V H O K D S W  
S E K G D J C O A P S Y C D H S S  
A P W M V O P R A D S W D R Y C H  
T S Q T R F I W W I E N M I U Z M  
I J A P O M F H D H V O L N A H Y  
O B A I V C P Y S I I D V O O O C  
N L P T N O S Y E Q L D E B R C L  
B I Z K L T R E X I L E S F O X C

Miracle    Process    Celebrate    Zeal    Mass    Bread  
Wine    Lives    Love    Church    God    Poor  
Exile    Canonisation    Peace    Saint



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## RESOURCE 10

# SENIOR WORD SCRAMBLE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. AISTN \_\_\_\_\_

2. EEACP \_\_\_\_\_

3. OATNCNNOAISI \_\_\_\_\_

4. LEIEX \_\_\_\_\_

5. PORO \_\_\_\_\_

6. OGD \_\_\_\_\_

7. CHCURH \_\_\_\_\_

8. ELOV \_\_\_\_\_

9. LVESI \_\_\_\_\_

10. NWEI \_\_\_\_\_

11. DBRAE \_\_\_\_\_

12. SSMA \_\_\_\_\_

13. AZEL \_\_\_\_\_

14. LARTCEEEDB \_\_\_\_\_

15. PRSCOSE \_\_\_\_\_

16. MCLEAIR \_\_\_\_\_



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RESOURCE 11

colour me in



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