

Very Rev. Louie Lougen's insights for the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, 2019, are even more needed as we cope with the corona virus and racism. "I feel a deep communion in joy with St. Eugene de Mazenod, rejoicing over this beautiful mystery of Mary's Immaculate Conception. This is not just another privilege of Mary, but reveals the intrinsic connection between holiness and mission. Mary was conceived without sin and full of grace in view of her mission as Mother of the Savior. Grace, holiness, God's life in us is intimately connected with our oblation and mission. St. Eugene didn't want us merely to have devotion to Mary. He wanted us to live her *fiat*, her oblation; to be committed to the prophetic missionary spirit of her *Magnificat*; to stand in faithfulness with Jesus and with the poor in their suffering; and, like her, to be steadfast in prayer in apostolic community, invoking the Holy Spirit to anoint us for mission."