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## Oblates of St. Francis de Sales vocation brochure

Oblates of St. Frances de Sales

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an idea whose time has come



Oblates of  
St. Francis de Sales

● The Oblate of St. Francis De Sales lives his particular life fulfilling one specific task — TO LIVE FOR AND TO MINISTER TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD ACCORDING TO THE DYNAMIC SPIRIT OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES. When he does this, the Oblate is participating in God's plan for man's salvation. God, our loving Father, considers every difference that separates one person from another, while at the same time He fully realizes that each person mirrors His image and likeness. This difference is evident in the unique charisms of the various schools of Christian spirituality.

And what is the vital and unique charism of Oblate spirituality?

● The Oblate spirituality breathes optimism wherever it goes. The Oblate believes that all persons by virtue of their call to greatness and holiness are basically good. The Oblate understands that God acts so that man can be saved. It is because of this that every aspect of an individual's life has its place in man's personal salvation. This motivates the Oblate to be open to God's inspiration which comes to him in prayer and reflection when he ministers to the community of believers.

● As the Oblate grows in this spirituality, two very definite attitudes begin to permeate his person. He develops *Humility*. This humility reminds him that he has been created in God's love, and how dependent he is on God. This humility helps him to understand his true worth and his very real limitations. Then, he develops *Gentleness*. Gentleness is the awareness that his neighbor has been loved and saved in the same way. It is this awareness which leads the Oblate to respond to God's love by searching out the Will of the Father and by conforming to His Will as it unfolds the real meaning of life. He allows nothing to be predetermined by his own desires, but rather through prayer, he seeks to discover what God the Father desires.

● In this way the charism of the Oblate of St. Francis De Sales is presented to the people of God. Yet, how well the Oblate realizes that to accomplish this attitude, he must nourish his personal growth in prayer. St. Francis De Sales believed that all true work of the Lord finds its real source in "conversation with God, about God and in the things of God." In turn he encourages the prayer-life of the Christian so that his heart and actions conform to the humble and gentle Christ. The Oblate strives to center the lives of those God sent to Him on the careful imitation of the humility and gentleness of the humanity of Jesus. In this way, the Christian will "Live Jesus" everywhere and everywhere.

● Refreshed then in his prayerlife and spiritual growth, the Oblate directs the personality and charism of each person as uniquely God-given. He respects the person's state in life with all of its duties and obligations. He sees in the light of salvation all events in the lives of those whom God sends. He respects the liberty of spirit of each person safeguarding his personal freedom to follow the inspiration of God.

● The Oblate of St. Francis De Sales, in whatever apostolate he finds himself, adapts these attitudes and guidelines to the specific activities and goals of his ministry. To accomplish this end, the Oblate must live the *Spiritual Directory* of St. Francis De Sales. This *Spiritual Directory* is the way an Oblate harmonizes his apostolic work with his own personal growth in holiness. Ideally, the Oblate is always conscious of God's presence and so he renews his determination to perform all actions and this specific action

for the love of God. He is conscious of seeking out God's Will in this action, so that he will perform in according to God's inspiration. When he does this, the Oblate can rest assured that all he does is done to the best of his ability in accordance with his conversation and reflections with God in prayer.

○ In this way, this particular charism which is Oblate is lived and enriched with the treasure of one's personal experience. Thus his experience and effort working hand in hand with grace help the people of God become aware that the kingdom of God is a reality within their grasp. It is a reality that can be experienced not just after death alone, but while they live here on earth. This Oblate charism which gives us the idea of Christ's life and love for us is ■ ■ ■

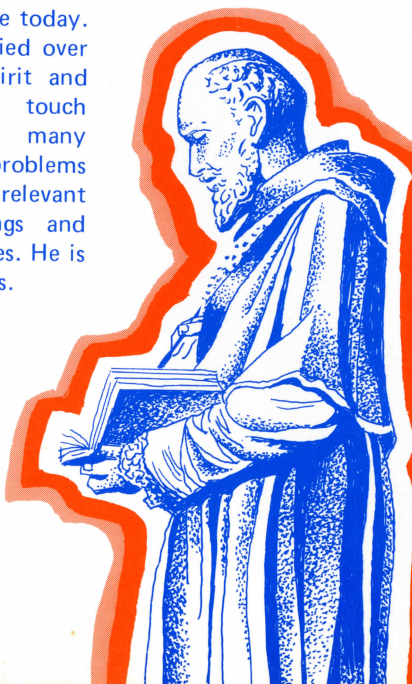
## an idea whose time has come

### SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

○ Saint Francis De Sales, a bishop of the 17th century spent his life preaching and teaching the Good News of Jesus Christ. Francis believed that if more people could grasp Christ's joyful message — hope, cheerfulness and harmony would envelope the world around them. All that Francis De Sales said and did centered around this one theme: that all Christians had in their power the ability to attain holiness.

He wrote two famous works: *The Introduction to the Devout Life* and the *Treatise on the Love of God* to encourage religious and laymen alike to strive to Live Jesus in all they did. Both books became instant successes.

This fact remains true today. For although Francis died over 300 years ago, his spirit and counsels continue to touch deeply the lives of many believers. Modern problems find practical and relevant answers in the writings and spirit of Francis De Sales. He is truly a saint for our times.





Youth Retreats



Parish Work



High School Teaching



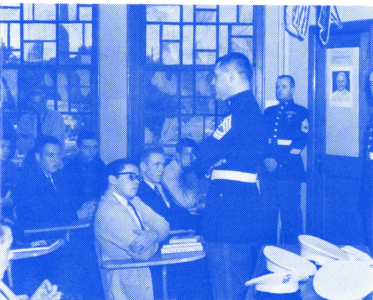
College Teaching



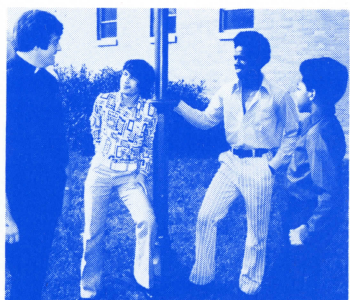
Administration



Foreign Missions



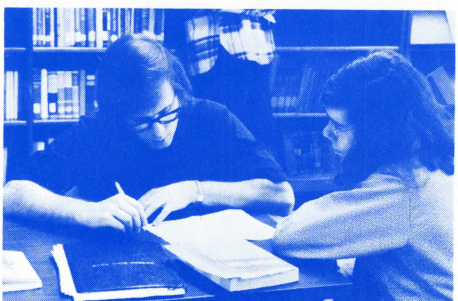
Armed Forces Chaplain



Inner-City



Prayer



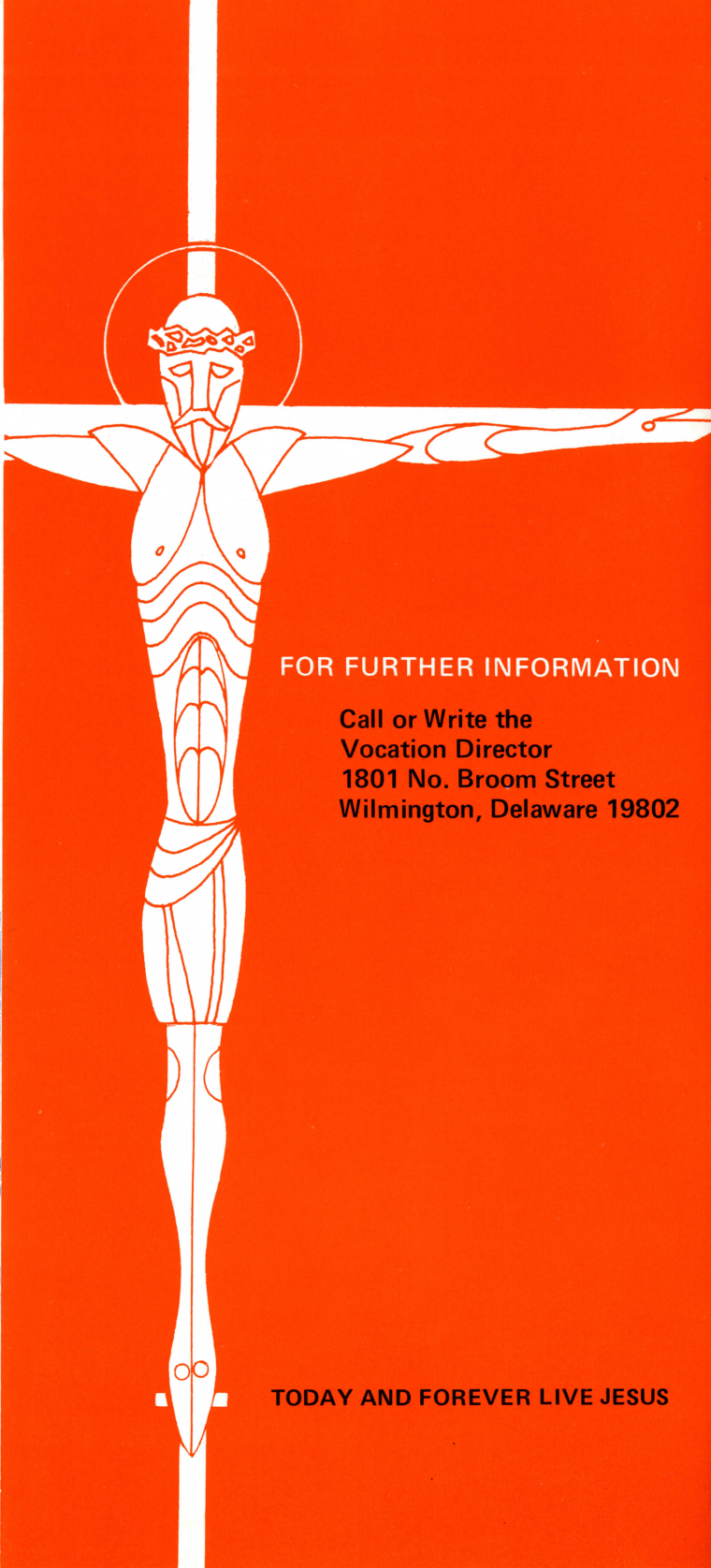
Counseling

# Oblates of St. Francis de Sales: priests and brothers

○ The Oblates were founded as a community of priests and brothers in France in 1872 by Louis Brisson and presently number over 1,000 members. Their international headquarters is in Rome, and the Wilmington-Philadelphia Province (which covers the entire East Coast) is based in Wilmington, Delaware.

Today, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales work on four continents — throughout the United States and eight other countries. Their principal apostolates are college and high school teaching, overseas missions, parish work, preaching retreats, campus ministry, the Newman Apostolate, hospital and armed forces chaplaincies, and youth and inner-city work. Priests and Brothers work in close collaboration with each other in all these apostolates.





**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Call or Write the  
Vocation Director  
1801 No. Broom Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19802**

**TODAY AND FOREVER LIVE JESUS**