UKRAINE

1. What confirms me in my life and ministry as Missionary Oblate – priest, brother, religious?

- The fact that I am called by God to be an Oblate and priest. I think about it often, I keep in mind different moments and experiences that have helped me to discern my vocation. When I go back to them, it helps me a lot.
- The relationship with Jesus Christ. I can see that if it is good, then I am a good Oblate. But if there are "silent days" with Jesus, it shows in a negative way in my fidelity, zeal and relations with other people.
- Prayer and missionary work.
- Regular prayer,personalandin community.
- Community life, because if I feel that I have support in my community, it gives me a lot of strength to do my ministry and I am not afraid I can't manage to do something. My community is with me, support me, encourage and pray for me. Without these things I can't imagine my religious life.
- The call of risen Christ: Go and preach to all nations…
- Signs confirming that my ministry gives joy and hope to people.
- The joy of serving the Lord.

2. What speaks to me today in my experience of Oblate life and ministry?

- That we as Delegation answer the urgent needs of the Church.
- Authentic life –I live what I preach.
- God gives us all that we need and in due time, so it is so very important to seek God's will. Without it a lot of ministries arecrippled,wounded, and at the same time we ourselves get wounded, there come frustrations, depressions and, eventually, leaving the Congregation.
- Similar situation as in the time of St. Eugene – the Church, Jesus' heritage is in need of witnesses.

- The poor, who do not know Christ. I try to minister to them through the mass-media.
- My experience of Oblate life and ministry today consists first of all of prayer life. This is a great gift for me to have opportunity to pray quite regularly individually and in community.
- Everyday Eucharist, breviary, meditation, adoration, and rosary – these are very important.
- A great gift for me is the community, where we relatively openly, as much as one is able to, talk and share, what is bad and what is good.
- My spiritual director and confessor is a big help for me; I can honestly talk to him.
- I have been a member of the Delegation Administration for six years, so I take part in the process of discerning many matters, which is a valuable experience for me. Very important for me is also that, despite I work in the administration, I can minister as spiritual director to others and I sometimes can preach sermons, retreat and conferences.

3. What surprises and challenges me in the Oblate ministry?

- Looking for a community outside the Oblate community, e.g. neocatechumenate.
- God's action in many moments of my life, God's leading.
- This how much I learn from the people with whom I work, from my brothers in prison; I learn from them trust in God, understanding own sinfulness and power of the Holy Spirit, that he is always here and I can especially see his acting when I need him most.
- A challenge for me in the first place is my conversion, searching for God's will and accepting it.
- To learn to love my confreres and all those that God puts on my way.
- Life in poverty, chastity and obedience.
- My own helplessness surprises me. A challenge is the need of the Crucified Love in so many people.
- People's indifference. You do not know how to reach them.
- Material crisis has changed into moral one. We do not know how to reach people who claim they do not need faith anymore.

- What surprises me is that some older confreres do not try to or find it difficult to pass on their zeal, to share their experience and to teach me – the younger one. In many cases, they withdraw or criticize.

4. What new calls emerge for me and for my unit after reflecting on the above-mentioned documents?

- There are too many meetings and too much talking.
- I cannot see any new calls except that we should convert and authentically live our vocation. If we are open to the Holy Spirit, new calls will emerge if God wills it, and not that it is our will. Even if we answer with great zeal to all calls, if it is not God's will, our efforts will get dispersed and at the end we will do nothing or even lose a lot.
- Let us take care of the commitments we have already accepted, with all the effort possible.
- Personal conversion.
- Striving to have the zeal of St. Eugene to serve the poorest.
- Conversion on personal and community level.
- Quality of community life.
- Serving the poor through ministry given by superiors.
- I think we should ask God even more,what he wants us hereto do.
- We need more courage to look for ever new ways, methods and means of evangelization. We can't be discouraged by failures or pooroutcome of our ministry.
- We should go even more into pastoral work with youth, families, sick in hospitals and prisoners.
- We need to underline more the necessity of searching for new vocations.
- A way to financial self-sufficiency; converted parishioners will support us with donations.

5. What are the joys and hopes that I experience in my Oblate ministry?

- Possibility to preach the Word of God and doing something good to people.
- There is enough joy in Ukraine – for example, when you visit a prison and just one person shows up at a meeting with you, but when you start to pray with him and see greatchild-like trust thatthis person prays with, a trust that you don't have, it is joy.
- When the whole community gathers for prayer.
- When we live together despite our different characters and we can forgive one another.
- I have only one hope – that I can help at least one person to reach the salvation.
- Deep happiness of people whom you minister to, and a hope that you have enough time and manage to help someone to experience meeting with the risen Christ.
- For five months now a catholic television broadcastshere, through which people hear the Word of God 24 hours a day! They call to us; they want to become catholic. Two of our volunteers already received the First Communion last month.
- The source of joy and hope for me is that people who come to the retreat house where I am superior, experience beautiful time, because they meet with God and the community of the Church and can simply rest. They always leave our house renewed.
- When I can see that a regular sacramental ministry, preaching the Word of God or spiritual talk changes someone and helps him. It gives me a lot of joy and hope.

6. What are anxieties and doubts that I experience in the ministry as an Oblate?

- Lack of vocations.
- Oblates leaving.
- Financial problems.
- Increasing of average age of Oblates in Europe.
- Doubts if I truly am Oblate of Mary Immaculate.
- What disturbs me is that I evangelize still not enough, that I feel powerless, not knowing how to reach people with the Gospel.

- What worries me is that many people are closed in, although they suffer very much without God.
- Many orthodox looks at us Catholics as a sect and this is an obstacle for them to trust our good will. This also calms down my enthusiasm.

7. What fragment or picture from the Bible helps me to endure in the Oblate mission?

- “I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me”.
- Solemn entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem (Luke 19:29-40).
- Merciful Samaritan.
- “It is not you, who chose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit and that your fruit is lasting”.
- Multiplication of loaves (Mark 6:32-44). The Apostles were powerless and would like most to send the people back home, it would seem best for them. But Jesus wanted them to do at least this much – to give out what was from him. They could not do anything more at that time yet. This is what the Gospel, Christianity and the Church is for – to simply distribute what Jesus is giving; to bring it to the people so that they may no longer be so lost and lonely.

8. What arecalls and challenges of which I heartodayat my ministry?

- To be closer to the poor; be with the people.
- To listen to people more.
- Conversion, proclaiming the Good News, witness of life, work with the poor.
- To do something more to bring Jesus closer to the people who never met him.
- My ministry as the Delegation Bursar is specific. I think I should see to it that the overall atmosphere around money and material goods be good. Good atmosphere meaning to be convinced that we have these goods for the mission and evangelization, to take care about financial transparency on all levels and ability to share.

- Many people want to have catholic TV in their cities; they phone us. I have recently written 298 official letters to cable TV operators to broadcast our television. Unfortunately, only two of them are interested. There is achallenge to reach each one of them so the Word of God may be proclaimed inthe broad public space!