



Rome, 4 January 2025

Dear major superiors and all confreres,

Happy New Year and a bright starlit celebration of the Epiphany!

Attached please find materials for the observance of the 2025 Double OSFS Jubilee: the 150th anniversary of the foundation of our congregation and of the death of the Good Mother, its inspiration. They are (1) the guidelines for the observance and (2) some suggested readings. More materials will be forthcoming, as is noted within the guidelines document.

I ask major superiors to forward this email and these materials as soon as possible to all confreres. For your convenience, the attached documents are provided unlocked in MSWord (for easy computer translation where needed) and in both A4 and US Letter paper formats.

I provide below a few additional notes based on questions I have received.

1. What are the dates of our Jubilee Year?

- Our observance of the 2025 Double OSFS Jubilee coincides with the calendar year: 1 January to 31 December 2025.

2. Are there particular dates to which we should pay special attention? Yes, they are the following dates in the second half of the year:

- July 1875: the month in which Blessed Brisson and Father Lambey went to Rome with a copy of the proposed Constitutions. Pope Pius IX blessed their work and promised a rapid examination.
- 7 October 1875: Mother Mary de Sales Chappuis died in Troyes at the age of 82. Her body rests in a side chapel of the Visitation Monastery in Troyes.
- 12 October: *The Feast of Blessed Louis Brisson, Priest*, established by the Church in 2012; this is the primary focus and title of the day, and the Liturgy of the Hours and the Eucharistic Celebration have their proper prayers and texts available in the languages of the congregation. It is also the day on which we Oblates remember the day our founders began a novitiate program in 1873 that would last until their first profession in August 1876 (named as *Founders' Day* by the 1995 General Chapter).
- 21 December 1875: In a *Decretum Laudis*, Pope Pius IX granted the congregation its first charter and placed it under the direct and immediate jurisdiction of the Holy See. This is the date we observe as the official date of founding of our congregation. Father Brisson received the joyful news on Christmas Eve 1875.

3. **Is there an official logo for this jubilee?**
 - As opposed to the last jubilee, there is no official logo for this celebration. This will allow for each unit of the congregation to design something incorporating its own language(s). In any case, it would seem appropriate to include the Oblate coat of arms.
 - For example, the South American and Caribbean Province designed a logo that incorporates the logo from the past General Chapter (“The Heritage in Our Hands”) and the 150th anniversary. This was published in the October edition of the *OSFS World Newsletter*.
4. **How can I find out what other units of the congregation are doing?**
 - Soon I will be announcing the creation of a new website for the congregation. Plans call for locating these guidelines and sample celebrations coming from the units on the website as they become available.
5. **Will there be any special celebrations held in Annecy or France this year?**
 - In July, participants in the Major Superiors Meeting with the General Administration will celebrate the jubilee together in Annecy.
 - In October celebrations will be held in Troyes. Talks are underway with the French-West Africa Province, the Oblate Sisters, the Visitation, St. Bernard School, and the Diocese. Mutually agreeable dates currently seem to be between October 3 and 7 for such celebrations. More information will follow as it becomes available.
6. **Can we combine our jubilee celebration with the Church’s Jubilee Year 2025: “Pilgrims of Hope?”**
 - Absolutely yes! The spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and Bl. Louis Brisson’s journey as a Founder have a lot to say about being pilgrims of hope. A sustained effort should be made to align the 2025 Great Jubilee with the Double OSFS Jubilee. Let this also be the firm base for the work of our interior renewal and re-founding with, in the words of the General Chapter, faith in the mission and hope for the future!

Finally, I want to express my sincere thanks to Father Joseph Chorpenning and the members of the International Commission for Salesian Studies (ICSS) for composing these guidelines and materials. They will assist us greatly in our planning and celebrations among ourselves and with the people of God.

Blessings of the Jubilee Year to you all!

Live Jesus!

Fr. Barry R. Strong, OSFS

Superior General

Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

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