

to spread the gospel, by converting the heathen, and by laboring in Christian lands, more particularly among the ignorant and destitute, as is implied by their motto: "To preach the Gospel to the poor He hath sent me."

The Congregation was founded at Aix, in Provence, France, by the Rev. Charles Joseph Eugene de Mazenod, a distinguished young priest, the last male descendant of a noble family of Provence.

The labors of the Congregation were at first confined to the poor humble peasants of the south of France, who, as a result of the French revolution of 1789-1793, were buried in ignorance and spiritual neglect. Their success was marvellous, but their numbers too few to meet the constant demands for their services. In the year 1841, however, an occurrence, quite unexpected, led, in the designs of Divine Providence, to the rapid increase and spread of the Oblates of Mary, not only in France, but also in America and various other parts of the world. In that year Bishop Bourget, of Montreal, begged the Founder to send some of his missionaries to Canada to evangelize the Indians scattered along the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the banks of the Ottawa, and the shores of the Hudson Bay. In response the venerable Monseigneur de Mazenod sent him a little colony of missionaries. This was the first step in the work of foreign missions which the Oblate Fathers now carry on so extensively and with so much success.

In 1847 a similar request came to Monseigneur de Mazenod from Bishop A. M. Blanchet, then at the head of the diocese of Walla Walla, in Oregon. His wish was likewise acceded to, and the Rev. Father Pascal Ricard, superior to the band, Cr mir Chirouse, Charles Pandosy and George Blanchet, accompanied by Brother Vern