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"THE GLORY OF GOD IS A HUMAN BEING FULLY ALIVE" OBLATE YOUTH RALLY IN SAN ANTONIO



The Oblate Youth Rally held in San Antonio became a transformative experience for our Oblate youth. On a vibrant Saturday, November 22nd, 2025, the Oblate Grotto in San Antonio welcomed over 200 youth and their dedicated leaders for a day of faith, introspection, prayer, invigorating motivation, and a profound connection to their Oblate identity.

The echo of COVID left a void in youth engagement, with programs dwindling in numbers and some vanishing entirely. Youth leaders and pastors voiced a shared concern for the spiritual well-being of their young parishioners. The Oblate Grotto had not hosted a Youth Rally since Covid. As a response to this challenge, the Oblate Youth and Young Adults committee of the U.S. Province stepped forward, embracing the challenge of resurrecting this vital youth rallies in San Antonio. Despite initial anxieties about youth response, the committee launched a dynamic promotional campaign using flyers, videos, personal calls, and visits. The result was overwhelming! Youth from distant corners like Buffalo, New York, New Orleans, Houston, Eagle Pass, and even Tijuana, Mexico, came together, eager to celebrate their shared faith and connect with peers, all while drawing inspiration from their unique Oblate identity.

The theme of the rally was inspired by the words of Saint Irenaeus: "The Glory of God is a Human Being Fully Alive". The participants were encouraged to a deep reflection on the obstacles preventing young people from being fully alive. Interactive skits, compelling presentations, personal stories, group discussions, uplifting music, games, activities and heartfelt prayer sessions explored the barriers to a vibrant, faith-filled life.

John Foppe, the keynote speaker and a man born without arms, captivated the audience with his extraordinary journey of adaptation and resilience. He shared how he transformed every challenge into an opportunity for growth, embodying the powerful truth that our limitations are often self-imposed. Fr. Jesse delved into the fears and doubts that often hinder young people from trusting in God and developing their inherent talents. Two brave youths shared their personal battles with fear, loneliness, loss, and other adversities, illustrating how their faith in God empowered them to overcome every obstacle.

One of the rally's most impactful moments occurred during a visit to the Oblate cemetery. Each young person spent time in prayer, reflecting on the lives of deceased Oblates, contemplating the meaning of life, and the enduring legacy they left behind. A silent yet profound experience that sparked personal transformation.



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The moment of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was indescribable. Through prayer and worship, the youth surrendered their burdens, anxieties, and fears, resulting in tears of release, comforting hugs, and a sense of profound healing. The rally culminated in the Mass of Christ the King, where the youth's reverence and joy served as a powerful reminder of their eagerness to encounter Christ and each other.

Carmen, a youth minister and member of the youth committee, captured the essence of the event:

“The youth rally was a great opportunity for young people to understand how it feels, and what it means to be fully alive in Christ. I experienced new hope in our group. We have felt so much pain over the loss of our friend Erik Rojas. It was inspiring to see them be themselves and bring their struggles before the Blessed Sacrament. I saw new friendships being formed. Our youth felt at home thanks to the witness of Oblate hospitality and charism.”



The unity, fervor, and profound spirituality witnessed at the rally served as a compelling call to action: to create more spaces where young people can continually encounter Christ and their Oblate peers, fostering a community of faith, hope, and vibrant life. Let this event inspire us to support and uplift our youth, providing them with the opportunities and encouragement they need to be Fully Alive!

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Oblates, pre-novices, dedicated committee members, and every single person who contributed their time and energy to bring the Oblate Youth Rally to life. Their collective efforts created an inspiring and memorable experience for all who participated. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Fr. Richard Hall, whose unwavering support and encouragement motivated the committee to take on this ambitious endeavor, and for generously opening the doors of the Oblate Grotto in San Antonio. Looking ahead, the Oblate Youth and Young Adults Committee is already setting the stage for an extraordinary 2026, as we prepare to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Oblate Constitutions and Rules. This milestone will be marked with a series of engaging and transformative events designed to deepen our understanding of the Oblate mission and strengthen the oblate youth bonds. Keep an eye out for more details as we approach this significant year – you won't want to miss what we have in store!



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