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13-19 JULY 2026 (WEEK 29) | 9TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

13-19 July 2026

Brazil Superior General A Pilgrim In The Amazons. Plus 4 more stories: Vatican News; Oblate news from Europe.

LEAD STORY

Brazil Superior General A Pilgrim In The Amazons

Following the Jubilee celebrations in Aix-en-Provence and Marseille, Superior General Fr. Luis Ignacio Rois Alonso, OMI, began a pilgrimage through the Oblate Province of Brazil on July 13, visiting communities in São Paulo before traveling to the Amazon District. He met with Oblates, formandi, lay associates, and local faithful at schools, parishes, and formation houses, including St. Eugene de Mazenod Parish in Campo Limpo and Our Lady of Graces Parish in São Paulo. On July 16, he joined the closing celebration of Missionary Week at Our Lady Aparecida Parish in Campinas, addressing young Oblates in formation. The pilgrimage then moved to the Amazon, where he celebrated Mass at the Tenderness of God Mission Area in Manaus and visited riverside communities in Araçá. On July 21, he attended the opening of the Oblate Province of Brazil Assembly in São Paulo, concluding his journey on July 27 by preaching at the Province's annual retreat. [Read more →](#)



Liberia's fight against illegal mining (Photo: Vatican News)

Liberia has launched the Protect Our Resources Taskforce (PORT) to combat illegal mining and strengthen regulation of the mining sector, with the task force tasked with overseeing operations, enforcing licensing, and ensuring environmental and labor compliance. Speaking at the launch, Liberia's Minister of Mines and Energy, Matenokay Tingban, described PORT as a shift toward intelligence-led enforcement and responsible resource management. The initiative responds to a regional challenge, as illegal gold extraction, often using hazardous mercury, has disrupted communities, such as in Uganda's Kanungu District, where a gold rush forced children out of school before authorities intervened. Illegal mining is also tied to broader security concerns, with mineral wealth fueling conflict and illicit trade networks, as seen in the Democratic Republic of Congo following the M23 rebel group's capture of Goma in early 2025. [Read more →](#)

Artur Kluz: Human dignity must be the measure by which we judge any technology (Photo: Vatican News)

Artur Kluz, founder and CEO of Kluz Ventures, praised Pope Leo XIV's encyclical **Magnifica humanitas** for shifting global discussions on artificial intelligence from technical concerns to human dignity. Speaking during the UN's AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva, Kluz emphasized the Pope's call to prioritize moral questions in technology development, rather than focusing solely on innovation or profit. He highlighted the encyclical's three guiding principles: technology is never morally neutral, it must always serve humanity, and wisdom must guide its use. Kluz also noted the Pope's influence in framing AI as a tool for peace and human flourishing. [Read more →](#)

The death toll from twin earthquakes that struck Venezuela on June 24 has risen to 4,490, with over 16,000 injured and nearly 18,000 left homeless, according to authorities reporting late on July 14. Rescue efforts continue as families search for missing loved ones, though heartbreaking stories persist, including that of a teenage girl trapped in La Guaira, the epicenter, whose rescue was delayed by missing equipment. British firefighters, now departing after initial aid efforts, recounted the immense challenges of reaching survivors amid debris and praised the resilience and generosity of Venezuelans despite their suffering. The United Nations has launched an urgent appeal for nearly \$300 million to support 1.3 million people affected by the disaster. [Read more →](#)

Regional Activities

Europe



Pope Leo XIV to Hold Private Audience with Oblates for 200th Anniversary (Photo: OMI World)

Pope Leo XIV will meet privately with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate on February 21, 2026, to mark the 200th anniversary of the papal approval of their Constitutions and Rules, originally granted by Pope Leo XII in 1826. On October 29, Superior General Luis Ignacio Rois Alonso formally requested the audience during a brief meeting with the Holy Father at the end of the Vatican's General Audience. The Superior General also submitted the request in writing. The gathering is seen as a grace-filled celebration of the Oblates' mission and their enduring connection to the Church and the Pope. **Read more** →



POINTS FOR REFLECTION

- **Brazil Superior General A Pilgrim In The Amazons** calls to mind Jesus' words: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (**Matthew 9:37**).

"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest indeed is plentiful, but the laborers are few.'" ([Matthew 9:37](#))

- echoes the call to "do justice, and to love kindness" (**Micah 6:8**) amid exploitation of creation and people.

"He has shown you, O man, what is good. What does the LORD require of you, but to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" ([Micah 6:8](#))

- echoes Pope Leo XIV's reminder that every human being is made in the image of God (**Genesis 1:27**).

"God created man in his own image. In God's image he created him; male and female he created them." ([Genesis 1:27](#))

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

- **13 July, St. Henry**
- **14 July, St. Kateri Tekakwitha**
- **15 July, St. Bonaventure**

• **16 July**, Our Lady of Mount Carmel

OBLATE VALUE OF THE WEEK

Mary, from the Dictionary of Oblate Values.

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