Religion in a time of change
The Oblate Story
Introduction

This unit explores the history and development of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate tradition from its beginnings in nineteenth century France to its place in Australia and Asia in the twenty-first century. The unit examines:

- the social context within which the Oblate tradition began (i.e. the French Revolution);
- how and why the Oblates came to Australia;
- investigates the contribution the Order has made to Australian society; and
- investigates ways in which Oblates cooperate with other world religions (e.g. Buddhism) to work for peace and justice in Asia with a specific focus on Sri Lanka or China.
Religion in the modern world

- Based on your own experience of attending a Catholic school and living in Australian society, record some initial thoughts on the role and place of religion in Australian society.
Religion in the modern world

- Click on the following link to watch a brief video clip about the diversity of religious belief in Australian society:
  - [https://kweb.bne.catholic.edu.au/ree/RE/CLT/AustScene/Pages/default.aspx](https://kweb.bne.catholic.edu.au/ree/RE/CLT/AustScene/Pages/default.aspx)
Religion in the modern world

- Now revisit the initial points you made about religion in Australia.
- In the light of your response and after having viewed the video, go to TodaysMeet and record ONE point that might contribute to a group discussion on the place of religion in modern Australia (Be sensible and remember that Backchannel responses contribute towards your participation mark in SOR):
  - http://todaysmeet.com/11SOR-Ivers
It wasn’t always like that

- People who lived before the French Revolution would not believe how the place and role of religion in the modern world has changed! As Peter Berger (1979) comments, we have moved from fate to choice!
The SOR inquiry process

In SOR, we adopt an inquiry process to examine issues. The following diagram explains the inquiry process used in this subject (it is similar to the LADDER approach used in other learning areas @ St Eugene College)
Using the Inquiry Process

- In the first step of the inquiry process, we FRAME questions that can guide our inquiry.
- Working with a colleague, brainstorm some questions we might ask about the topic “Religion in a time of change.”
- When you have finished, record your questions on the backchannel
The Ancien Regime

- Using resources you find on the internet, make some brief notes on the Ancien Regime. Consider:
  - What was it?
  - Who benefitted from it?
  - Who didn’t benefit?
  - How did the Catholic Church fare?
The Ancien Regime

- On this slide, construct a diagram that shows some of the main features of the Ancien regime
The French Revolution: A time for change

- So what was the French Revolution and why were people so upset with the King and Queen?
- Watch the following videos for a brief introduction to the French Revolution:
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EvakM9Waus
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FP3oZbZgWrg
- If time permits, you might want to watch more parts of this documentary on YouTube