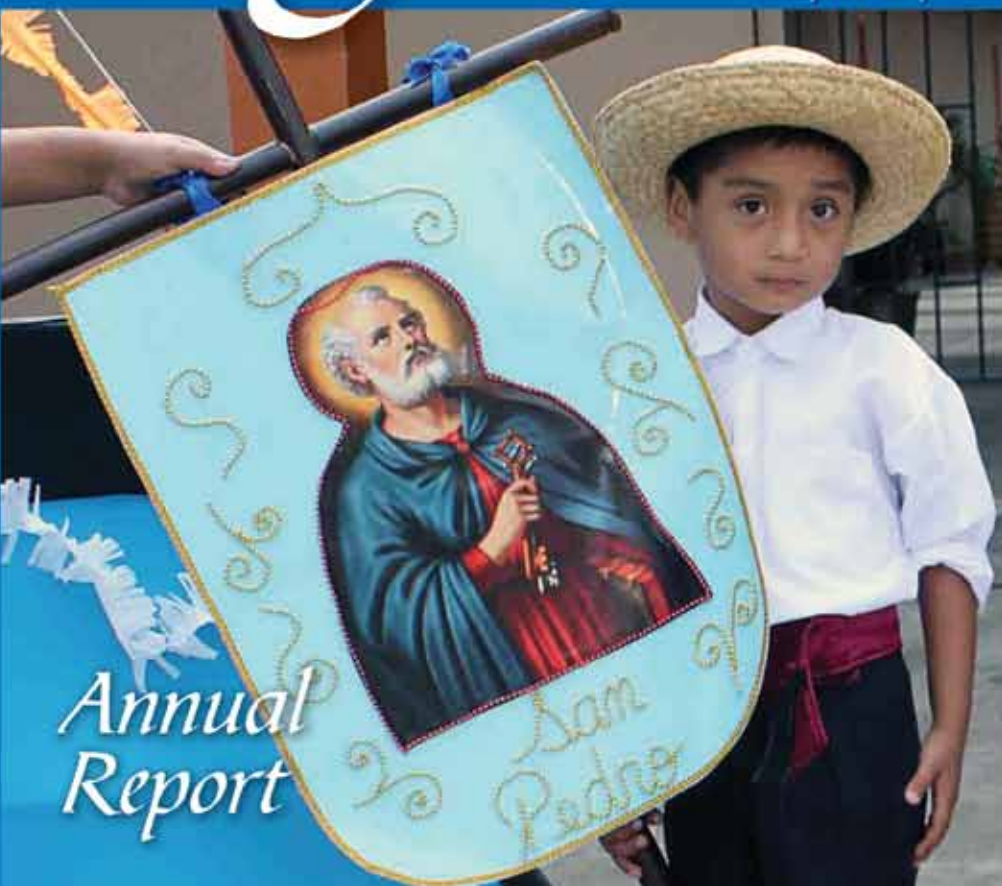


AMMI *Lacombe* Canada MAMI

# Oblate Spirit

June 2017

Annual  
Report



# Grateful for MAMI family



*“Our desire, and work, to help others reach their potential is a God-like action. If we act like God, we will always find true happiness.”*

Those words, written by Oblate priest Gerry Conlan in Kenya, serve as a template for our lives and the work we do on a daily basis. We all work, in one way or another, at fulfilling our life missions. We, in the MAMI family, are fortunate to experience the “God-like action” that you, our MAMI family and friends, provide on an ongoing basis, support that comes from your prayers and your donations to the missions.

Once a year we take this time to outline the financial review of the previous year.

In 2016, we so gratefully received \$1,809,743.96 in donations. This money came from 1,787 of the 8,287 members of MAMI, which equates to a 21.6 per cent rate of participation. Of the money donated, \$968,242 came from six estates, and four publicly-traded securities accounted for donations of \$110,544. The average donation in 2016, excluding estates, was \$472.49.

The expenses to operate MAMI came to \$279,308.91, a decrease of about \$4,000 from 2015. Included in the expenses were accounting and legal fees, office supplies, salaries, and the cost of printing and assembling *Oblate Spirit* in both English (\$1.87 per copy) and French (\$6.51 per copy). In an effort to reduce costs, the French version of *Oblate Spirit* is now only available online.

The donations helped MAMI support more than 55 projects worldwide, projects that ultimately make life better for future generations, like the orphan from Peru pictured on the



cover, or the Kenyan youngster (above) who has an opportunity to attend a school supported by the Oblates.

Whether it is a water project, education, a women's prison, or a new parish in Kenya, the children are the ultimate beneficiaries of our God-like actions. Youth ministry and retreat centres in Canada, Christmas packages in Bolivia, an orphanage in Brazil, or a health clinic in Guatemala all benefit our children of the world.

Haiti was devastated by a hurricane, and the Oblates were there to help. In Peru, Oblates provide assistance ranging from soup kitchens to housing, from milk for malnourished children to beds and blankets for those most in need.

MAMI provided \$910,308 in 2016 to help fund these and other projects, and we know the children benefit.

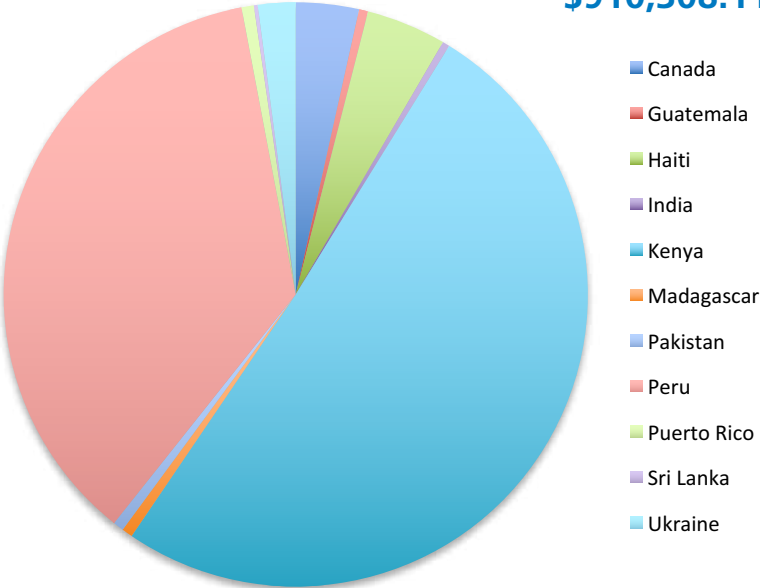
These, then, are the numbers the accountants see. But they don't see the faces behind these numbers, the faces of our supporters to whom we owe a world of thanks, blessings and prayers.

You are the faces of God.

*John and Emily Cherneski, Communications Coordinators*

# 2016 Projects Funded

\$910,308.11



Bolivia	\$5,539.47
Brazil	\$1,789.80
Canada	\$31,505.97
Guatemala	\$4,472.25
Haiti	\$40,000.00
India	\$3,510.75
Kenya	\$457,750.00
Madagascar	\$5,397.50
Pakistan	\$5,343.75
Peru	\$328,132.57
Puerto Rico	\$6,161.05
Sri Lanka	\$1,900.00
Ukraine	\$18,805.00



Oblates Ken Forster and Fidele Munkiele at women's prison

## PROJECTS FUNDED

# *Africa*

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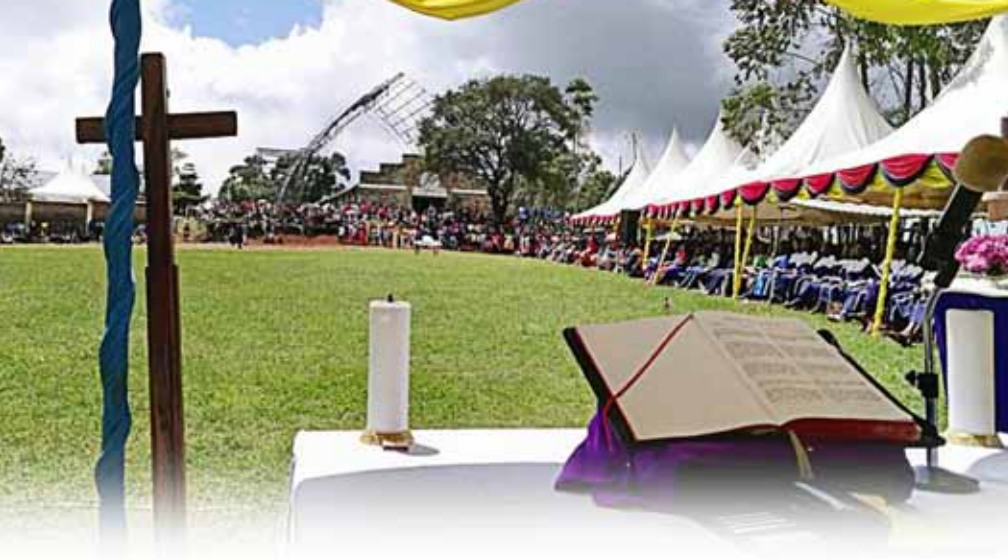
### KENYA

- Care of mission
- Development
- Kionyo – Kiokaugu Church
- Kionyo – Mt. Kenya water building
- Kionyo – school equipment and fees
- Kisaju – school fees
- Langatta Women's Prison – pastoral care workshop
- Langatta Women's Prison – school fees
- Méru – education fees
- Masses



Mario Azrak, OMI





## MADAGASCAR

- Catechetical formation and materials
- St. Eugene Scholasticate – water tank

# WANTED YOUR STORIES!

*There are many charities and good causes that solicit your support. Yet for some reason you have chosen to offer the Oblates your prayers, friendship and assistance.*

### **We are curious:**

Why did you choose us?

How did you hear about the Oblate missionary work?

How have the Oblates supported, inspired and encouraged you?

What are some of your best memories of Oblates and their missionary work?



**Send your stories (and photos) to: [lacombemissions@yahoo.ca](mailto:lacombemissions@yahoo.ca)**



# *Canada*

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- Northern missions
- Parish missions – Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage
- Healing programs through Retreat Centres
- Youth ministry



# *Latin America*

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## **BOLIVIA**

- Christmas packages
- Agro Ecological Production – CCCIEM – Jarana



Christmas packages in Bolivia

## **BRAZIL**

- Nilzete Orphanage

## **GUATEMALA**

- Health Clinic – doors and windows

## **HAITI**

- De Mazenod Dormitory at Camp-Perrin – rooftop
- Community Meeting Hall at Coteaux – rooftop
- Rectory of Chardonnières – repair doors and windows
- Cultural Centre of Port-Salut – rooftop

Destruction in Haiti





## PERU

- Parish needs
- Foster Parents – education sponsorship
- House building
- Beds and blankets
- Formation
- Social assistance and soup kitchen
- Milk for malnourished children
- Medical supplies and care for the patients at the rural Santa Clotilde hospital and tertiary level care at the patient house in Lima

Constructing a new home in Peru





# *Asia - Oceania*

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## INDIA

- Library – De Mazenod Institute of Philosophy in Perambakkan

## PAKISTAN

- Education of children

## SRI LANKA

- Water tank



## Gift Payment Option



We have the ability to accept donations by way of credit card! Please complete the gift form enclosed, visit our website at [omilacombe.ca/mami/donate/](http://omilacombe.ca/mami/donate/) to give on-line, or call our office toll free: 1-866-432-6264 and we will be pleased to assist you in facilitating your donation to the Oblate missions.



Homeless in Ukraine

# Europe

## UKRAINE

- Children's Community Centre – English courses
- Kitchenware to serve the homeless

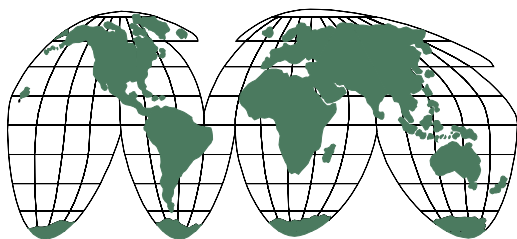
### DONATING SECURITIES

*to Oblate  
missionary  
works*



Do you have publicly traded securities that you would like to donate to the benefit of the Oblate missions? You can directly donate your publicly traded securities (shares) to **AMMI Lacombe Canada MAMI** and receive an official income tax receipt while avoiding the payment of capital gains tax.

To take advantage of this tax-saving offer, please call Diane Lepage (1-866-432-6264) at our office for further information. A minimum market value of \$5,000 is suggested. We would be happy to facilitate this exchange that benefits you and the poor of the Oblate missions.



# 2017 Goals

\$1,200,000

Bolivia .....	\$10,000
Canada.....	\$100,000
Guatemala .....	\$10,000
India .....	\$10,000
Kenya .....	\$600,000
Peru .....	\$400,000
Sri Lanka.....	\$10,000
World ( <i>Haiti, Madagascar, Pakistan, etc.</i> ) .....	\$60,000





# Joining the mission

BY MAKUNKA BRIGHT MUSA, OMI

KENYA – I come from the Northern part of Zambia, which was evangelized by the Missionaries of Africa towards the end of the 19th century.

During my childhood I was inspired by their good works as they served our St. Margaret Kasaba Parish, and this ignited the call to the priesthood at a very tender age, inspiring me to become an altar server.

When I was in my sixth grade, an announcement was made in church inviting young boys to register for the entry examinations to the Minor Seminary of Mansa Diocese. I registered and informed my parents about it. Later that year I sat for the examinations which I passed. After passing the government entry examinations to the eighth grade, I went to St. Charles Lwanga-Bahati Minor Seminary where I did my secondary level of education.

While at the minor seminary, I realized that religious priesthood was distinct from Diocesan priesthood. The former is a calling to be ‘missionary beyond borders’ and the latter being missionary to one’s diocese of origin.

Makunka Bright Musa, OMI and family at farewell mass





Makunka Bright Musa, OMI, and his mother

With this knowledge I realized another call within the first calling: to be a religious missionary priest. However, I met with some difficulty making a choice between several congregations.

I began investigating some such as the Missionaries of Africa, Holy Ghost Fathers and the Society of the Divine Word, but did not feel drawn to any of these.

One day I saw a friend of mine, who was in touch with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, reading the Oblate 'red book' that contained the charism of St. Eugene de Mazenod and the works of Oblates.

I asked him for the book and upon reading it I instantly felt drawn to the Oblates. Two things attracted me to the Oblates – their working with the poor and their being a Marian congregation.

I identified with working with the poor. During my childhood I was exposed to the less privileged that came to work on our farm without having enough time to work on their fields. This situation made me become empathetic towards the poor.

Secondly, my dad had a strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin such that we prayed the rosary every night before we retired. So, I wrote to the Oblates and in two weeks I got a reply from Fr. Ron Walker, then the vocations director. The good and fast communication of Fr. Ron was a sign that these guys are serious with their service of God.

Fr. Ron sent me all the necessary information to enable me to know Oblates since they were not yet in the northern part of Zambia. In 2003 I was called for a 'come and see' program which was done in Lusaka at the then pre-novitiate which is now the Centre House of Oblates in Zambia.

I resigned from my job as a sales agent of PEP, which is a South African company of chain stores, and went to the 'come and see'. The program exposed me to the life and mission of the Oblates. From that time, I became resolute to become an Oblate.

The following year I began the pre-novitiate, which was a two-year program. In 2006 I was sent to South Africa for novitiate at Our Lady of Hope Novitiate and professed my first vows on Feb. 3, 2007. Just after my first profession I went

**Makunka Bright Musa, OMI**







**Makunka Bright Musa, OMI**

to St. Joseph's Scholasticate and studied at the St. Joseph's Theological Institute which is an Oblate institution of higher learning. This was still in South Africa.

I obtained my Bachelor of Arts degrees in Philosophy and Theology respectively at this same Institute. When I was winding up my second year of theological studies in 2012 I was elected as the president of the student body, serving for one year. About two years later I completed my initial formation and returned to the Oblate unit of the Zambian delegation.

Prior to my return, Louis Lougen, OMI, the superior general, visited the scholasticate. This gave me a chance to chat with him about Oblate units that needed missionaries. With his counsel I indicated three Oblate units for my first obedience, but would go wherever I was needed. A few months later, Fr. Louis assigned me to the Oblate Kenya Mission that belongs to the Lacombe Canada Oblate Province.



However, I was asked to serve in Zambia for two years as assistant parish priest at St Michaels-Kalabo Parish in the diocese of Mongu before heading to Kenya.

I arrived in Kenya to the warm welcome of Mario Azrak, OMI, the mission superior who greeted me at the airport. A day later we began the annual Oblate congress at which Fathers Ken Foster and Ken Thorson were present. The congress accorded me the opportunity to meet my brother Oblates in the Kenyan mission. It was also a chance to meet the provincial and his vicar. I was filled with joy to see Fathers Gideon, Dionysius, Steven and Brothers Magambo and Vincent, with whom I stayed at one point at the Oblate scholasticate in South Africa.

I felt the Oblate charity and love for the poor as the mission deliberated on various issues pertaining to the mission and its relationship with the Mother Province of Lacombe in Canada. There were issues of manpower as we are receiving invitations from bishops to go into their dioceses. There were also issues on self-sustainability and how this can be achieved with the help of the Mother Province vis-a-vis the Canadian government's limitation on money going out of Canada.

Staying at the centre house, with the pre-novitiate adjacent, gave me a chance to interact with pre-novices. I have seen a bright future as we seem to have a good crop of future Oblates.

I was in Kenya for about 10 days before leaving for Tanzania to learn Kiswahili at Makoko Language School on the shores of Lake Victoria. The process of learning is progressing quite well and I am now beginning to converse and celebrate mass in Kiswahili.

I returned to Kenya in May and am waiting to see to what ministry I will be assigned. In my introductory words to the Mission at the annual congress, I expressed my willingness for any kind of assignment. I look forward to time with my Oblate family in Kenya.

*"Our desire, and work, to help others reach their potential is a God-like action. If we act like God, we will always find true happiness. This is why so many older people – although poor – are so happy: they spent their lives helping their families realize their potential."*



## Kenya NOTEBOOK

BY GERRY CONLAN, OMI

### MARCH 5

My God moment for the week was on Saturday as I drove back from Kisaju. I stopped at the timber shop in Kitengella where I had advised a young man late last year to get some eye protection when cutting timber. He only listened after I said he would not be able to see any pretty girls if he goes blind.

Anyway, after that story, my sister in Australia sent some proper clear eye protection glasses in January. So, when I stopped and reminded the young man who



Gerry Conlan, OMI

I was, I handed him the glasses. He looked surprised. Then I explained my sister sent them from Australia. His eyes got bigger. "So I pay you for them," he said.

"No," I said. "They are a gift." He just looked stunned, and I



New safety glasses



Kisaju parish

thought he was going to cry. He couldn't believe it. He put them on and I took a picture. Thanks, good sister!

Another God moment was spending a few hours helping our "adopted son" Dennis apply for an international university scholarship. After a few hours preparing and scanning all his documents, I was becoming a bit impatient about time, until I read one of the two essays they had to prepare.

He had to write 500 words about what it was like growing up as an orphan. I suddenly realized it was probably not an easy task to recall all the struggles and sense of abandonment by his mother.

"Are you OK, was it a bit emotional for you to write this?" I asked.

He looked at me and said, "Do you think you would have feelings if you wrote it?"

"I'm sure I would," I replied. "When you feel able, I think it would be good for you to talk to someone about your childhood."

In his essay he said that as a boy he felt like a mistake. So I told him, "You are a blessing in my life and the life of your community at home in Ciokaugu."

After that little conversation, I didn't feel too worried about time. After supper at Karen with the pre-novices, I drove him home because it was a bit late for buses.

Please pray Dennis gets the scholarship!

## MARCH 12

Sadly, during the week, we heard news that four Sisters of the Daughters of St. Anne died in a car crash in Ethiopia. We minister to them at their formation House in Karen. Apparently eight sisters were heading to a funeral of one's relative and a big truck overtook them. Not sure what the details are after that, but four died and two are in critical

condition. Let's pray for them. They do some amazing work – schools, orphanages, and medical clinics – in remote places in Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and others.

Saturday I drove to the farm to check on Euticus, our farm manager. Euticus had fallen off a motorbike and injured one hand and one knee. He was lucky. I called Collins, another good youth from Kionyo who was hanging around Méru waiting for a job, and suggested he check on Euticus.

I later discovered Collins had stayed for almost two weeks to care for Euticus, who had not been able to cook or wash.

The farm looks healthy and the cow pen has been expanded to cater to four bulls instead of three. When the two new baby bulls arrived they were attacked by the other two older bulls. I wonder if that is where humans get it from?



Kiirua farm

## MARCH 19

At Kionyo church I was excited to climb to the top for the first time, but the engineer in me kept getting annoyed by the finishing touches missing from the building. I sent many photos to the engineer, who promised to make fixes.





Street boys enjoy a good breakfast

Monday, as I walked for breakfast in Nairobi, I came across a sad looking boy on the street and asked him if he'd like breakfast. He said yes, and I saw behind him his friend. So I said, "Bring your friend but leave the glue sniffing bottles behind."

I walked ahead, and by the time we arrived there were six boys, ages 10 to 16. We went upstairs in the restaurant and had a big table and a few of the women fussing over them. They left with smiles on their faces.

But I always feel frustrated. How can we solve this bloody problem? We need a safe house for them to get some dignity, and then they need school and mentors. Most have left home because of abuse, or been pushed out when parents die.

## MARCH 25

On Saturday, as I left Karen, I offered a ride to a woman leaving the school next door with a sack over her back. She was heading back to the market two kilometres away. It was hot. She told me she makes food and sells it at work sites for lunch.

She was sad because she didn't sell all her food that day.

I asked if she came by hired motorbike, but she said the cost (\$1.50) would kill her profit. It made me sad, and appreciative of our car. So many people have a tough life here.

## APRIL 2

I took Fr. Constant, who is on our finance committee, to view the new Oblate house so he could judge for himself the expenditures. As we drove to Kisaju, he kept saying ... “we need trees, yes, plant trees!”

The next morning, Godfrey came early and the three of us headed off to Nyahururu to look for land for a future retreat centre. We have received a donation for the same from Australia. After all the excitement we finally arrived home at 11 p.m. Godfrey had received a sheep from a friend of his near the area (he is splitting it 50/50 with us), so we carried it back in Mario’s vehicle – a bit smelly!

We passed through three police checks and got stopped at the last one. The policeman asked for my licence, then asked me to unlock the trunk. He checks the license, the insurance stickers, and goes to the back. There was dead silence as he opens the trunk and checks around ... even the sheep are afraid of the police!

Kionyo church in progress



He comes back to my window, looks sternly at me and shakes the licence in my face. "Do you know it is illegal to carry livestock between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.?" Innocently and shocked, I said, "no!"

"And the way you have tied that animal is cruel and the Kenya Animal Welfare will charge you," he said. Godfrey leaned over and said something that did not please the man, and he barks at me, "Where are you going?" Godfrey repeated "Karen" three times before I said it more clearly and added "I'm a priest there."

He stepped back, waved the licence at me looking shocked and disappointed. "A priest? You have done a very bad thing! Don't do it again! Now, go."

Godfrey said he was disappointed because no bribe would be given. The poor policeman obviously wasn't a farmer, because we only tied the front legs of the sheep and stuffed it in a sack to catch his "offerings."

Wednesday I checked the crops, trees and toilet construction at the Kiirua farm. I didn't want to come back the next day so I had a long planning meeting with Euticus, the manager. The farm is looking great. Thank God we had some small bursts of rain at the end of January and end of February. No rain for four weeks, but it rained the night I arrived, not that there is any connection!

Friday we drove to Nairobi, and about halfway Fr. Constant pointed to a lovely nursery on the roadside, and said: "these trees, you must buy for the house."

I stopped and as I waited for someone to call the owner I started chatting with a nice man, also waiting. He turned out

Fruit trees



to be an agriculture department officer who advises farmers. He proceeded to explain to me about hybrids and I asked about avocados. He negotiated a good price for the seedlings so we got macadamia, tomy mango and avocado trees. I took his number, gave him money for a cup of tea and drove off very happy with 10 of each tree as a trial run, half for Karen and half for Kisaju.

It was another “thank you Jesus” moment, and who said the Holy Spirit doesn’t exist! I had no plan to stop until I arrived in town and saw the nursery.



Fidele Munkiele, OMI,  
Holy Thursday at women’s prison

## APRIL 8

After my adventures last week, it was good to have a quiet week to deal with paperwork required in Canada and get one big report out of the way.

Saturday, I shared three hours with the pre-novices. It’s their monthly reflection day; the theme was the Passion and its connection with Oblate Life.

## APRIL 15

We are struggling with half power. We get some dim lights and slow boiling of water on one level or the other when we have power problems.

Wednesday was preparation day, homilies for Holy Week.

We were blessed with the visit of two South Korean priests. The diocese in Korea supports and staffs a mission in dangerous South Sudan.

Good Friday I was busy practising all the Swahili lines and homily for the Easter celebrations at Olturuto. We had good celebrations and I managed to survive the complicated





Gerry Conlan, OMI, Easter Sunday

Vigil Mass in Swahili. The masses were very lively with lots of singing.

## APRIL 22

After a few days of rain, the place is looking very nice. We are well under the normal rainfall, but we are grateful for what we've received. Parts of the north and South Sudan are struggling.

I was 30 minutes late for Sunday mass at Kisaju, but they didn't seem to mind... my homily was short enough. I managed to get back to the house by 2 p.m. with a tray full of flour, maize, fruit, etc. from the offertories. We even received a rooster, who was not having a good day as we ate him for supper!

After a nice sleep I took Fr. Fidele to the airport by 6 a.m. Monday as he was heading to a meeting in South Africa. Then back for mass and a day of computer repairs and backing up the office computer.

Tuesday, I was joined by Bright Makunka, OMI, who has

returned from Swahili training in Tanzania. He's a month early, so obviously brighter than me, who failed after the full three months!

Fr. Bright needs a local driving licence changeover, so we headed to the Huduma Centre. One man sent us elsewhere and then a lady sent us somewhere else. I followed the lady's advice!

## APRIL 28

I'm not sure where the time goes, but that's life.

We had some rain last week, for which we were grateful, but we need so much more or the country will be in trouble. Our farm at Kiirua has not had rain in more than two weeks. The freshly planted beans have sprouted and are now at risk of dying. So many parts of northern Kenya are struggling. Even Euticus at the farm has had women and children come begging for food. Please pray for rain.

Amidst all the stress of working in the government system and traffic jams and my friendly police, it is easy to forget the blessings that touch us. Last week, David, one of the pre-novices, noticed my washing in the machine and decided to hang it out. Later that day I forgot to bring it in, but the next morning I found it dry and sitting in the laundry. Another pre-novice, Patrick, always makes sure food is saved for me or he fetches alternative fruit when watermelon is served.

I attended the Australian High Commission social night, networking with the Wrigley Chewing Gum manager. They have a factory ready to start at Athi River, close to Kisaju. He is promising to help with some humanitarian projects.

On Friday, five members of the mission left by bus for Busia, near Uganda. They were representing the mission at the funeral of Br. Vincent's father. It was a 10-hour trip each way – up Friday night and back Saturday night.

# What is the postulancy and who are those men?

**BY PRAVEEN MAHESAN, OMI**

Ten energetic men from different parts of the country have come forward to dedicate themselves for the service of the Kingdom of God in the Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, here in Kenya Mission.

The so called “come and see” programme in our Méru Formation house runs for 10 months, starting on 15th February and finishing with labour pains on 15th December, 2017.

The Kenya Mission, together with the Formators, and using the Oblate Norms of Formation, have designed the programme to suit their culture and environment. We create a prayerful environment for the candidates to search their Call.

The candidates experience the life that Oblates live together. Through the example of the Formators living and

Postulants





Postulants working in the field

identifying the spirit of St. Eugene de Mazenod, our founder, and with the guidance of Mother Mary, our Patroness and Mother, we nurture the vocation of each young man.

Through daily pray, “portfolio” responsibilities, games and the inter-personal encounters amongst themselves and the Formators, the candidates gradually come to understand their call in the path of the Oblates.

The different activities organized for the candidates during their time in the Formation house allow them to grow in the areas of personal responsibility and freedom to be themselves, rather than calculated actions to please the Formators and others.

Starting in 2016, the Oblate Associate Members have slowly been incorporated into the programme, to provide a wider family perspective... a sign, to them, of the care we receive from God through the people of God.



# New ways to serve

BY MIKE DECHANT, OMI

SASKATOON – Remember the old adage *better late than never!*

Yes, it is true. I have moved back to the Promised Land ... Saskatchewan, that is!

I have been away from Saskatoon for 20 years, so it's hard to believe that I would return to continue to work in youth ministries.

This move has been part of a new Oblate initiative in Canada. An emerging Oblate phenomenon has finally hit home to us, that the young Oblates of Canada are getting old, and the old ones are getting ancient.

As a result of the concern, the present Oblate leadership has led the Canadian Oblates in a process of discernment of how can we best pool our Oblate resources to minister to the People of God in Canada. The discernment ended with the creation of five mission centres across the country.

There are four of us Oblates at the Saskatoon mission centre, each working in our own particular ministry, but collaborating with each other whenever and however possible.

The four ministries are St. Francis and St. Joseph's Parishes (with Fr. Nestor Gregoire as pastor); an out-reach to the growing Philippino Community (with Fr. Nestor Silva, a multi-lingual Philippino); the chaplaincy team at St. Thomas More College, the University of Saskatchewan Campus (Fr. Mark Blom); and me in high school chaplaincy. I'm the priest chaplain at Holy Cross High School with about 1,100 students and 130 teachers and support staff. It's an exciting school, excelling in academics, sports, drama, music, and other social justice concerns.

Building Oblate Community: Since we first moved into 'Potters House' (because we live on Potter Crescent, and

reflecting the biblical image of the potter and the clay in Jeremiah 18), we've had a very busy year and a half integrating ourselves into our individual ministries, trying to build an effective Oblate community, and renovating our house so we can extend hospitality to visitors, and still have ample space to gather the folks to whom we minister.

God blessed us with a most efficient carpenter-plumber-electrician who re-worked our house into a comfortable and attractive home. I still think it was a miracle what our good

Tom Saretsky, Holy Cross Chaplain, and Mike Dechant, OMI



friend Lorne Keller (and his wonderful wife Helen) was able to accomplish in such a short time. We had a new home by Christmas. (Jokingly, I have said to him that I have begun the initial discernments for his canonization. We just need one more dramatic miracle, like a healing or spectacular cure, and we will have him on 'the calendar' ASAP.)

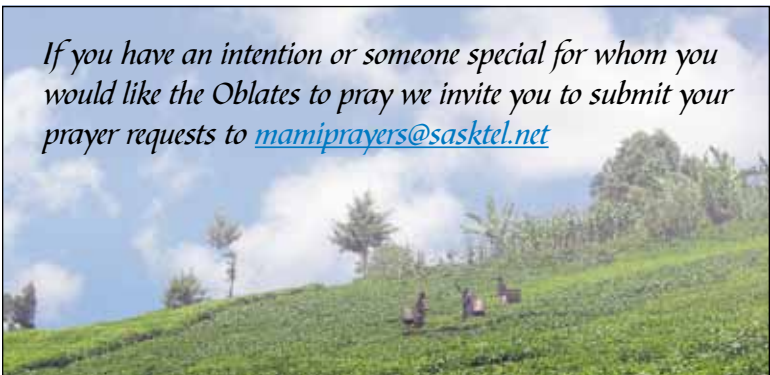
I am most fortunate to work with Tom Saretsky, a seasoned teacher chaplain. We continue to support and encourage the many great spiritual traditions within the school, initiated by the chaplains of the past, especially our beloved Oblate Fr. Bob Halbauer.

One of Fr. Bob's gifts to the students was to pray his breviary during the final exams at the end of each semester. We have expanded that tradition (already started at St. Albert High School in St. Albert, AB) by inviting the students to "Pray with Fire" by lighting a candle in the chapel before each exam.

While they write, we are in prayer support for them, asking God to fill their heart with peace, their mind with clarity and self-assurance, and whatever else they need to write a good exam. Our motto is: We pray ... You pass! They appreciate the prayer support. More and more students are taking advantage of this prayer support.

This is my ongoing prayer for you: May the Lord bless and keep you. May His face shine upon you. May He look upon you and fill you with His peace.

*If you have an intention or someone special for whom you would like the Oblates to pray we invite you to submit your prayer requests to [mamiprayers@sasktel.net](mailto:mamiprayers@sasktel.net)*



# Oblate ministry never ends

BY GAETANE PAUL

SASKATOON – Oblates never retire from ministry! I continue to admire and be in awe of the 13 Oblates who reside at Trinity Manor in Saskatoon as they continue ministering to those around them while at the same time attending to the needs of their fellow Oblates. With varying levels of health, they contribute to their community in any way possible.

- Bro. Oscar Delanghe, even with his limited hearing, is always ready for a game of cribbage and enjoys taking excursions to different events on the Trinity Manor bus.
- Bro. Walter De Mong enjoys visiting and assisting those around him. He continues to accompany his fellow Oblates to doctors' appointments and runs errands for them as needed. Recently Bro. Walter took a cab to Central Haven, picked up Fr. Ron Zimmer and took him to an eye specialist appointment. I admire that dedication!
- Fr. George Gruber, with his limited eyesight, assists with the sacrament of reconciliation.
- Fr. Louis Hoffart says mass at the prison twice a month as well as doing replacement ministry.
- Fr. Lester Kaufmann also presides twice a month at the prison and does replacement ministry.
- Fr. Syl Lewans contributes by assisting the choir at daily mass. He is also very



Aloysius Kedl, OMI



patient with my mother, who has had a stroke.

- Fr. Tony Schmidt has taken on the role of ‘communications.’ He is the liaison between Trinity Manor and my office. If equipment breaks down, if documents need to be copied or if any kind of information needs to be communicated, Fr. Tony is always willing to assist.
- Fr. Albert Ulrich goes to Central Haven every Sunday morning so that Fr. Ron Zimmer, Fr. Alois Kedl, and others who might want to join them, can participate in Sunday Mass.
- Fr. Eugene Warnke (the young one of the group) is always being called for replacement ministry.
- Bishop Gerry Wiesner is always busy but never too busy to take Bro. Oscar Delanghe to see his sister in North Battleford or take individual Oblates out for breakfast on their birthdays.
- Fr. John Zunti ministers to those at Samaritan Place and is called by the funeral homes when funeral services are needed.
- Fr. Paul Fachet just keeps everything running smoothly! As well as being the Oblate director at Trinity Manor, he also works at Queen’s House Retreat Centre. Fr.

Paul is the go-to person for things like health, finances, meeting and mass schedules. As a ‘sideline’ he likes to entertain the residents at Trinity Manor along with Isadore, another resident at Trinity Manor, playing music, singing, and telling stories and jokes.



Paul Fachet, OMI

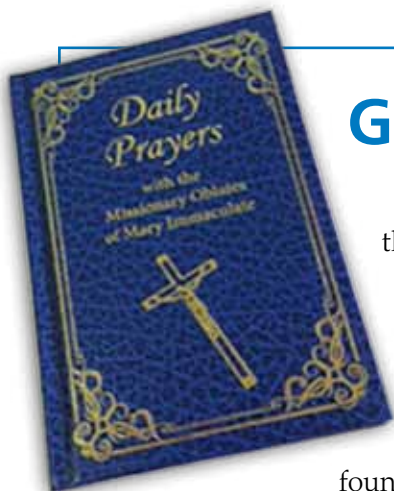
- Although Fr. Ron Zimmer is no longer at Trinity after moving to long-term care at Central Haven, he too continues to minister to those around him. He knows the history of almost every resident in the building. He reads to people and he'll even call the child of a resident to provide an update on their parent who also resides at Central Haven.



Ron Zimmer, OMI

These men carry and live the Oblate spirit for life.

*(Gatane Paul is the Administrative Assistant for the Missionary Oblates of the Saskatchewan District)*



## Gift offering

Prayer is the foundation of the mission work of the Oblates and we would like to share with you a complimentary copy of our Daily Prayers with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. The prayers found in this blue, hard covered, 264-page book will provide you with a year's worth of daily prayers as well as special prayers for holidays and feast days to inspire you as you deepen and strengthen your relationship with God.



# Remembering

*We remember the following Oblates who died in 2016:*

March 6th	Paul Feeley (1938)
March 27th	Jules Loranger (1923)
April 14th	Maynard Boomars (1938)
April 14th	Harold McIntee (1930)
June 4th	Clarence Lavigne (1927)
September 6th	Neil Haight (1925)
September 15th	Joseph Redmond (1947)
October 12th	Alain Piché (1929)
December 23rd	Joseph Goutier (1938)



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**Communications  
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