



BC District

Phone: 604-736-9363

Fax: 604-736-9961

Email: secretary@omibc.com

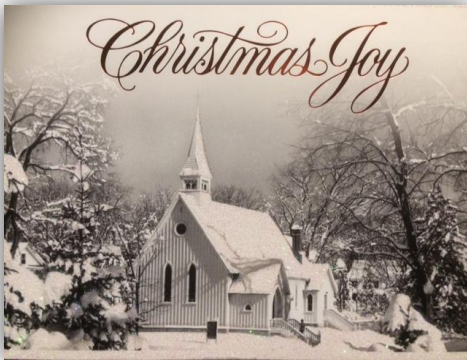
December 29, 2016

BC News

2016 – 015

To my Oblate Brothers, Associates and Friends;

As a kid growing up in Peterborough, Ontario, during the 40's – 50's, I still have vivid memories of going to my father's eldest sister's, the oldest of eight in the Brioux family, on New Year's Day for the annual Blessing! The old French Canadian custom was that the eldest male, in this case Aunt Val's husband Louie Girard, would be the one to impart the Blessing. All members of the family would gather at the Girard homestead on New Year's Day, where I can still see Uncle Louie, standing as he always did, half way up the staircase leading to the second floor giving his Blessing...I don't recall the content of the Blessing, but the "Amen" signaled it was time to break out the toasts over tourtiere and sausage meat wrapped in pastry ("Pigs in their blankets") smothered in home-made ketchup sauce.



As the New Year fast approaches, I fancy the little verse of Alfred Lord Tennyson that reads:

"Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go,
Ring out the false, ring in the true."

Perhaps as a New Year's resolution, this simple verse of Robert W. Service might serve as a mantra
"Our breath is brief, and being so,
Let's make our heaven here below,
And lavish kindness as we go."

In any case, the ancient blessing in Numbers this Sunday pretty well sums it up, but here is an old blessing for us all:

May your New Year be a time of peace, joy, and serenity!
May each day bring you closer to Christ and more loving
to those in your family!
May each week see you advancing in the practice of
faith, hope and charity!
May each month give to you the aid, comfort and strength you need
from God!
May the march of the seasons make you appreciate
and be grateful for all the good things you enjoy!
May the New Year find you happier, healthier, and holier than you
have ever been. Amen

John Brioux, OMI
District Superior

