



BC/Yukon District

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February 23, 2017

BC/Yukon News

2017 – 002

The Birthday Book ... March 2017

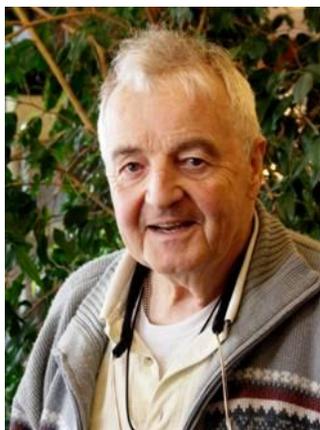
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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Andy Takach, O.M.I. | March 1 st |
| Terry Conway, O.M.I. | March 8 th |
| Otto Rollheiser, O.M.I. | March 21 st |
| Bill MacDonald, O.M.I. | March 25 th |



Keep in prayer Fr. Gerry Guillet, OMI. He was transported by ambulance from Logan Manor to Chilliwack General Hospital. This was because of an infection of the stub (that part left after his foot was amputated). Fr. Gerry's condition has improved with antibiotics but he continues to stay in the hospital under observation.

Fr. Terry McNamara, OMI is scheduled for much needed knee operation on March 2nd. He's looked forward to this procedure for so long to alleviate the pain he suffers almost constantly.

Prayerful Remembrance:



Father Robert Kelly, OMI passed away on January 31st, 2017, at the age of 87 at Youville Home, St. Albert, AB, Canada. Son of Karl Kelly and Georgina, he was born at Charlottetown, PEI on May 15, 1929.

Father Kelly pronounced his First Vows with the Missionary Oblates on September 8, 1949 in Arnprior, ON and was ordained a priest on June 5, 1953 in Ottawa. His ministry included Vancouver, Mission, Williams Lake, Lillooet, Vancouver Island, Nanaimo, Campbell River, Chemainus, Fort St. James, Fraser Lake, Duncan, Prince George, Porter Creek and Teslin, BC; Edmonton, AB; Whitehorse, YK. He reited at Pandosy Place, Vancouver, BC in 1999, and moved to Foyer Lacombe, St. Albert, AB in 2007, then to Youville Home, St. Albert, AB in 2013.

Funeral Mass was held on February 6th at St. Albert Catholic Parish, St. Albert, AB Interment followed at St. Albert Catholic Cemetery, Oblate Plot.

Robert Kelly, OMI 1929 – 2017 (Eulogy delivered by Jim Jordan, OMI)

Robert arrived on the scene on May 15, 1929 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island and he would be one of several men from PEI who joined the Oblates and served the Church in western Canada. Robert also had a brother Jim who was a priest for whom Robert had high esteem. He would speak in glowing terms of his brother.

Robert entered the Oblate novitiate in September of 1948 and made his first profession as an Oblate on September 8, 1949. He studied at Holy Rosary Scholasticate in Orleans, Ontario. Robert was ordained on June 5, 1953.

Robert's first assignment or as we say in religious life, his first obedience was to St Augustine's Parish in Vancouver, BC. From there he moved to Mission, BC where he was missionary to the native people. Then he was off to Williams Lake where again he was the missionary. Robert spent many years on Vancouver Island, in the Prince George Diocese, Edmonton and Calgary.

Robert was innovative and believed that the way to proclaim the Good News was through audiovisual means and later through social media. I heard that when he was in Teslin in the Yukon, he attempted to establish a TV station but on the day he was to begin broadcasting, cable arrived there.

Robert had a great appeal for young people and developed many magic tricks to attract them. When visiting families, he often brought toys for the children. He was retreat master for many youth retreats where he used his considerable talent with audiovisual presentations.

Robert was a great entertainer, always the life of the party. The Oblates of BC and the Yukon gathered twice a year as a whole community – retreat time and congress time. Both events would conclude with a celebration which usually included a singsong. Robert had a small portable pump organ and he would lead the singing. Included in the celebration would be an anticipated jingle to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean" composed by Robert with a little help from his friends. It was a humorous digest of the events and persons attending these gatherings. The assembly would join in with the chorus "Bring back, bring back my Bonny to me.

Robert was a charmer. I recall that Fr. John Dore, a former provincial of the Anglo Irish Province, who was hiding out in Houston, BC, saying, "It would be hard to say no to Bob." I remember when Bob was with me in Terrace, he learned of someone wanting to sell a camcorder. For his ministry, Bob had to have it but from where would he get the funds? He happened to be passing the school where a meeting of the Knights of Columbus was taking place. He entered and pleaded his cause. He left the meeting with money to purchase the camcorder. Sometimes when Bob missed presiding at Mass he would appear home get down on his knees, beg forgiveness and of course receive absolution.

Robert was my assistant for a short time. Because he was a pilot he was asked to go serve the missions from Fort St. James. While he liked to fly, he was not excited about looking after missions because of his age and health. Fr. Ivan McCormack was pastor at Fraser Lake and also a pilot. Robert would on occasion persuade him to look after the missions. Eventually they traded places.

One would have to work hard not to like Robert Kelly. As we sat around the supper table reminiscing about his life and works there was nary a word of despair but lots of good memories and laughter. He was one of a kind and will be missed.

**Archdiocese of Vancouver's
Vocations Fair
Notre Dame High School February
21, 2017 1-8pm**

Fr. Terry Conway and myself represented the OMI Lacombe Canada BC District at the Annual Vocation Fair with a table backdrop and supplies from 1-6pm. We didn't persevere to the end as it looked as though the Vocations Steering Committee was not going to get the turnout they were hoping for. The First part of the fair was quite well attended with the visits of the St. Jude, Holy Cross, Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Mary's and Notre Dame elementary and high school students from grade 7 up. The students





made themselves busy by making the rounds from booth to booth filling in question quizzes and interviewing the Religious Communities. Not every religious community was represented, neither did the Archdiocese had a table set-up.

We were hoping to be there to promote the Oblates, who after all, are the oldest and prime evangelizers in BC and the Vancouver area. It was also an opportunity for the religious to get reacquainted and

visit. We had a grand time chatting with everyone, and felt that since, we might have at least one vocation, that being a 'jokester' member of the Serra Club, Villanova Carvalho, who was there with his wife, was willing to come with the Oblates during the week and would return home to be with Alice and family on the weekend! We lost interest when we found out that he had made the same proposal to the Redemptorists and the Franciscans. We got a great laugh out of it all. In the end, Terry and I felt it was worth while being there and taking part, but were left wondering if this was the best way of recruiting. We'll see!



John Brioux, OMI

REPORTS, REPORTS, REPORTS By mid-March, I will be sending a **District Financial Report** to the Provincial with the information from our individual Financial Reports for 2016. If you have not submitted your Report yet, please do so before March 10th.

GST REPORTS for the second half of 2016 are due. Please use the latest template (sent as a separate email to Oblates) and give a reason – 'Food', 'Prescription' or 'Verified' (figures are as on receipt) – when the difference ('diff' on the template) is 10 cents or more. **Please do not mix the two half years – use a new template.** All receipts are to be sent to the Treasurer's Office in Vancouver. If you expect me to enter your receipts, please see that the '**date**' and the '**GST**' amount are circled for easy recognition.

Since **INCOME TAX** time is approaching, I recommend SimpleTax as an easy way to file your Return – once you have received the appropriate slips. A link should be available on the CRA website. It is free, although they will ask you for a donation, if you wish.

Terry Conway, OMI



Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday
March 1, 2017



Sunday , March 12th
(Saturday night)
Clocks go FORWARD an hour