



BC District

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May 4, 2017

BC News

2017-004

Robert Smith, OMI
Martin Moser, OMI

May 13th
May 18th



Welcome to the BC District Community:

Fr. Jaime G. Dukowski, OMI belonging to the United States Province has received from Rev. Fr. Louis Lougen, OMI an Obedience for OMI Lacombe Canada as of April 27, 2017. Fr. Jim is arriving from Peru on May 6th and will reside at Oblate House, 1311 The Crescent, Vancouver. His contact information will be sent out once available.

Keep in your prayers:

Fr. Terry McNamara, OMI is scheduled for a much needed right knee surgery Friday, May 5th at the Richmond General Hospital.

Fr. Bernie McCosham, OMI continues to struggle with some health issues.

Fr. Jim Jordan, OMI with his on-going chemo treatments.

BC District Community Days: April 24 -26, 2017...The Crescent

On April 26th, the BC District Community Days drew to a close as we all departed at one time or another after a very lively and fruitful experience. In the short space of time we were together, we covered a fair bit of material including finances, the future of our retreat houses, elder care, highlights from the Chapter and the question of our archives. Our discussions were informative and comprehensive. Much of what we spoke of we'd heard before, but this time in a more intentional direction.

We are most appreciative of our Core Team and Treasurer for their capable leadership amid demanding and relentless responsibilities. It was also an added treat to have Sandy Prather back on board with us here on the coast and to also have our new lay representative on the leadership with us,...Cathy Oberndorf. These two ladies are a great addition to our community with their expertise and are "Oblate Fans!"

This was a good turn-out for us, somewhere around 30 or so at one time or another. For those of us not able to be present for these days, please know you were not far from our thoughts. Our gratefulness goes out to Jim Jordan, Elizabeth Tolentino and the house staff for their hospitality and providing for our needs. The meals were great Biljana! All in all, our time together was reminiscent of good old Oblate life and frivolity.

John Brioux, OMI



Belated Easter Best Wishes... (John Brioux, OMI)

Dear Fellow Oblates and Associates,
As a result of the Easter Festivities, the prep and a huge unexpected Squamish funeral with prayers Easter Sunday eve and the funeral Easter Monday, I did not have the opportunity to extend to you my personal 'Best Wishes' on this most joyous feast. Thinking back to the beginning of the Triduum, I am reminded of the Chrism Mass, where I noticed for the first time, oddly enough, that at the blessing of the 'Chrism, the Archbishop bent over and exhaled three great breaths into the large flask containing the olive oil and balsam. How significant is that? Immediately Genesis 2:7 came to mind, *"The Lord God formed the man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being"*.

I have attached a photo of a young man who, at the age of 41, had never been baptized and yet earnestly desired to be, but life's challenges impeded him, especially so during these past four years during which he has been dealing with terminal brain cancer. Denny doesn't know how much longer he has, as his cancer is inoperable; nevertheless, I mentioned to him at the Vigil about the blessing of the Chrism and how it was God's will to reach out to him in His great mercy to gift him with '*New life*'! At the end of the Vigil, and after the last great Alleluia was sung, I'll never forget Denny blurting out in great gusto, "**Yahoo!**" I guess that about says it?

At the end of the Easter Octave, now called 'Divine Mercy Sunday', again we heard how Jesus "came and stood among" his disciples and "...breathed three times on them saying "Peace be with you", his Peace, the fruit of his loving presence for all time. How astounding and such an amazing gift is that? May your days be filled with this *Peace and New Life*. Happy Easter! Alleluia!



A visit to Fort St. James, BC

(Fr. Gilbert Bertrand, OMI)

We went to St James for Frank's birthday. It was hosted by the Sisters of St Joseph of Toronto. Sr Irene with Frank is a Sister of St Joseph of Canada and St Mary's both in Prince George. This picture was taken at Camp Morice. (by Gilbert Bertrand, OMI)

(in picture left to right) Oblates Vince James, Gilbert Bertrand and Frank Salmon.

Dates to Remember:

Sept. 15 – 17 Retreat with Father Bonga Thomsanga Majola, OMI will be held at St. Augustine's Parish Centre. Registration will be sent out at a later date. This gathering is put up by the Oblates Associates.

October 16 - 20 "Walk A New Path" District Retreat Days at Westminster Abbey. Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie, OMI will be the retreat director.