

HIGHLIGHTS

ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

OMI Lacombe Canada



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What Are We Asking for This Christmas?

Instead of focusing on material presents, let us request from our Loving God what most strengthens our souls and enlivens our love

Hope

the north star in my soul,
that it may always point me toward the Light of the World.

Stillness

to sweep through my restless mind,
emptying it of the cluttered debris and floating negativity.

Non-violence

that every thought, word, deed and desire
flow gently from me like a brook caressing unmovable stones.

Laughter

to retain the sprightly dance of joy
amid the endless duties, preparations, chores, and responsibilities.

Other-Centeredness

for the tightly held part of self
that ignores, denies or refuses to respond to the plight of others.

Perspective

for an inner vision that views
each difficult person or situation through the wide lens of kindness.

Surprise

so the celebration of Christmas rekindles awe and gratitude
for the Source of All Love, and influences how I live.

*This Christmas – It is our prayer that we – individually and as a community –
receive all of these gifts in abundance.*

HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 8TH CELEBRATIONS

Members of the Ontario District in the Ottawa Valley gathered on December 8th at Canadian Martyrs Church, with former Oblates, Honourary Oblates, Oblate Associates and parish members for our celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

This year a prayer service, led by Fr. Roy Boucher, was developed to commemorate the Feast Day. In addition, Frs. Jim Bleackley and Ken Thorson provided a video presentation from the General Chapter and spoke of their experiences in Rome at this multinational, multicultural gathering. The video is available to anyone who is interested. Please contact McE to get the necessary details (ontariodistrict@omilacombe.ca).

A wine and cheese reception followed the final *Salve Regina*. Thank you to Canadian Martyrs for hosting the community.



Members of the Hamilton area sent pictures from their celebrations of the Feast Day!

Frs. Heiner Paucar, Tony O'Dell and Jarek Pachocki and Bro. Dan Dionne started their day with mass, followed by a visit with Fr. Chris Rushton.

Fr. Chris' spirits were up as he was able to spend this Feast Day with his brothers in spite of his health issues.



Salve Regina

OBLATE ASSOCIATES IN THE TRIENNIUM

DISTRICT ANIMATORS

There have been some changes this past year with new appointments for District Animators for Oblate Association. The following Oblates and Associates have accepted to serve as Animators for the Province in this important ministry: Father Richard Beaudette, Pamela Dixon [Ontario]; Father Mike Dechant, Darcie Lich [Saskatchewan]; Father Fred Groleau, Debbie Doornbos [Brother Anthony]. Continuing in the ministry are Brother Thomas Novak, Margot Lavoie [Manitoba] Father John Brioux and Marie Luttrell [British Columbia]. Our gratitude goes out to all the animators for taking on the responsibility of facilitating Association in their district. OMI Lacombe would not have the vibrant Association it does without the work of the Animators.

Our warmest gratitude is extended to the District Animators who retired from the ministry this past year: Father Roy Boucher, Erin Ryan, Father Bill Stang, Christine and Brad Taylor, Father Camille Piche, and Lucie Leduc. It was with their able assistance and guidance that Oblate Associates became established in OMI Lacombe Canada. We continue to build on their work.

DIRECTORY OF OBLATE ASSOCIATIONS

A few months ago, the congregation released a revised **Directory of Oblate Associations** in honor of the 200th jubilee. The booklet is the fruit of some years of work by the Internal Mission Committee under the direction of Fr. Gilberto Piñón, Assistant General for Mission. It builds on the work of the first

Official Directory of Oblate Lay Associations, published in 2001 and updated in 2004. As quoted in the Directory: ***"Our Superior General wishes that this Directory helps us keep 'our hearts burning with new vision, new hope, and new energy.' May this be a helpful tool of information and animation to 'fan the flame of our Oblate Charism' as we celebrate the 200 Anniversary of our Foundation."***

The directory is available on the OMI Lacombe website, on the **Oblate Associates** page, under the Tab **Associate Resources**. It provides a succinct history and snapshot of association throughout the congregation: definitely worth a look!

Submitted by Sandra Prather, Provincial Animator, OMI Lacombe Associates

COMMUNITY DAYS AND RETREAT FOR 2017

Dates are set for the 2017 community events:

Community Days, May 15-19, Galilee Retreat Centre, Arnprior

Fall Retreat, September 11-15, Manresa Jesuit Retreat Centre, Pickering

Please mark your calendars as registration forms will be coming out in the new year!

FROM ST. EUGENE

Dearest Mother, do you really think that I was not beside you last night? How could I fail, meditating as I was on the holy Mother of God, who had just been filled with consolation on giving the world its Saviour, and at the same time had to experience so vividly the poverty, weakness and misery to which she saw her Divine Master reduced for love of men, how could these

tender sentiments fail to draw me close to you? Indeed yes, darling mother, we spent the night together at the foot of the altar, which for me represented the crib in Bethlehem; together we offered our gifts to our Savior and asked him to come to birth in our hearts and strengthen us in all that is weak, etc. You know my heart all too well, since it was formed



from your own, so you will have a very clear understanding that it is as active and goes through the same feelings as your own.

Letter to his mother

December 25, 1809

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

COMMUNITY DAYS
MAY 15-19, 2017
GALILEE RETREAT CENTRE

FALL RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 11-15, 2017
MANRESA RETREAT CENTRE

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BIRTHDAYS

Fr. Andy Boyer	Dec 5
Ken Hart	Dec 10
Fr. Mike McCarthy	Dec 24
Fr. Claude Tardif	Dec 31

ANNIVERSARY OF FINAL VOWS

Fr. Andy Boyer (43 years)
Fr. Hanh Van Tran (12 years)

ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Fr. Roy Boucher (51 years)
Fr. Charles Donovan (50 years)
Fr. C. Joachim Pillai (60 years)
Fr. H.J. MacDonald (31 years)
Fr. Antonio Pannunzi (45 years)
Fr. Vaughan Quinn (53 years)
Fr. Jan Rademaker (47 years)

