

# HIGHLIGHTS

## ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

OMI Lacombe Canada

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

FALL RETREAT, SEPTEMBER 11-15, MANRESA, PICKERING



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 6  
JULY 2017

## OTTAWA BOC AND ASSOCIATES SPRING RETREAT

The Ottawa BOC hosted its annual spring retreat at Galilee Centre on June 16. There were 19 in attendance, including 3 Oblates, 13 Associates and 3 Affiliates from the Ottawa, Arnprior and Westport areas. Richard Kelly organized the gathering and Roy Boucher was the animator for the day. Each year, participants look forward to the spiritual growth, faith sharing and community renewal that occurs here, not to mention the superb hospitality and peaceful setting provided by Galilee.

We experienced this retreat as a Eucharistic event. The morning prayer and guided contemplation led by Roy was the Liturgy of the Word. At day's end we moved directly into the offertory, the re-

newal of commitments and the Eucharistic celebration led by Richard. Everyone enjoyed a silent lunch and the celebratory dinner together.

The guided contemplation was focused on Mark 10:46-52 where Jesus heals the blind Bartimaeus (also told in Luke 18:35-43 and Matt. 20:29-34). Bartimaeus scolded by the crowd to remain quiet, persists in crying out loudly, "Jesus, Son of David! Take pity on me." Jesus finally calls him over and asks "What do you want me to do for you?" "Teacher, I want to see again" says Bartimaeus. Jesus responds, "Then see. Go, your faith has made you well." Bartimaeus is able to see, begins following Jesus, giving thanks to

God. The crowd witnesses it all and praises God as they too could now see.

We were divided into groups and asked to visualize being Jesus, Bartimaeus or a member of the crowd. Using our imagination we reflected on what our personal experience was on that day. The sharing was rich, insightful and deep. We learned more about ourselves, each other, our faith and discipleship. We discussed how Bartimaeus was a "perfect disciple" that day and was healed by his faith alone. "Seeing" is a metaphor here for "seeing" the truth of believing in Christ and the Good News.

*Article continues on page 2!*



## HIGHLIGHTS

# JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup> RETREAT (CONTINUED)

The feedback was very positive. We loved the sacred scripture basis of the day, the guided contemplation, the silent time to reflect and the encouragement for each to share without “fixing” the other. Several said that it is through faith sharing gatherings like this that our spiritual growth needs are being met.

Richard Kelly celebrated a beautiful Eucharist with the 1860 Royal Oak tree as the backdrop. Three Associates renewed their annual commitment: Jane McDonald, Suzanne Massie-Manchevsky and David Morgan. The three new Affiliates are Karen Ann McKinna and Marie Morgan of Arnprior and Renée Liss-Siraco of Ottawa.

One disappointment was the fewer number of Oblates who are able to attend this year. In discussing this we felt that the “tipping” point may have been reached and that Associates can take leadership in organizing similar faith sharing and hospitality events and invite all community members. Perhaps this will help address the needs of aging Oblates and Associates who may not be able to attend particular gatherings for health reasons. There is also a desire to



establish an Arnprior Associates group to reduce the amount of travel, particularly in winter months.

Suzanne’s husband, Norman, joined us for dinner. Maureen Pinsonneault, HOMI, said grace and we enjoyed a delicious dinner and carrot cake in honour of Erin Ryan’s birthday. Thanks to everyone who helped make this day a great success, to all attendees, to Galilee staff and especially to Frs. Richard and Roy for the continued grace of their leadership. We can hardly wait to do this again!

*David Morgan*

## PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

**Ron Kedrosky**, continues to deal with cancer. He is unable to join our gatherings but really enjoys the cards, mail and email that come from our community. He mentions lately that he is well looked after by Lee, Tammy and Troy and that Ethan is a ray of sunshine!

**Hugh James MacDonald, OMI**, is exploring with his doctors the options for kidney dialysis, much of which has significant implications for his day-to-day life.

**Jack McCann, OMI**, continues his chemo treatment for lung cancer. His sense of humour and creativity

are very hard to repress in spite of the side-effects of the treatment.

**Chris Rushton, OMI**, resides now in Emmanuel House Palliative Care Centre in Hamilton. He is safe and comfortable. And the staff see Fr. Chris not just as a patient but also as the in-house chaplain.

*Please send any suggestions for prayers to McE Galbreath at [ontariodistrict@omilacombe.ca](mailto:ontariodistrict@omilacombe.ca).*

## FALL RETREAT : THE SEED OF THE OBLATE CHARISM

Oblates and Associates are called to see, and believe with conviction, in the gift that our Charism is for the Church and society of today, and for us as individuals. And we are called to share it with others ... *to sow the seed* of the charism by our words and deeds.

Eugene de Mazenod, a broken, but holy man, received the original inspiration for the Oblate Charism. For the charism to make sense in 2017, we must return once more to

our original inspiration. Our retreat this fall will invite a rediscovery of the core of our Charism—a new incarnation for the present moment.

Accompanied by God's word, and by the Founder and his first companions, Fr. Bonga Majola, OMI, will invite us to consider how we might re-propose the charism as witnesses for today's world. In his talks, through ritual and in prayer, Fr. Bonga will urge us to dwell at the "heart of the Charism" so as to

renew our commitments as sons and daughters of St. Eugene.

**Fr. Bonga** was ordained to the priesthood in October 2011 and was immediately sent as an assistant parish priest to St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Victory Park, Johannesburg, responsible for youth ministry and vocations ministry. Fr. Bonga is currently a member of the Aix International community, at the service of Animation of the Oblate Charism.

### Upcoming Events at Galilee Centre

#### **Medical Assistance in Dying:**

Why the Catholic Church Thinks the Way It Does  
July 7-9, 2017

Presenter: David Perrin, Ph.D.

#### **Find God in this Confusing World**

August 11-13, 2017

Facilitator: Fr. Jim Clarke

#### **Six Day Directed Retreat**

Directors: Roy Boucher, OMI, Richard Kelly, OMI,  
Lucy Germain, CSJ and Mary Catherine Kelley, GSIC  
September 16-22, 2017

#### **How to Live with a Prickly Porcupine:**

Letting the Difficult Person Heal Us  
November 10-12, 2017

Presenter: Fr. Matt Linn, S.J.

For more information on these and other events,  
contact Galilee Centre at 613-623-4242, ext 21, or  
[info@galileecentre.com](mailto:info@galileecentre.com)

### OMI Lacombe GST/HST Round-up

It is that time of year again when OMI Lacombe requests all of your sales slips, dated January 1 to June 30, 2017, so that the GST/HST may be recorded and submitted to support the Province.

Please send your sales slips in to McE Galbreath at the Ontario District Office, 100 Main Street, Ottawa, ON K1S 1C2. If you would like to record the GST/HST yourself, please let McE know and she can provide you with the most recent spreadsheet. Thank you! Enjoy your summer!



*Great Egrets on holiday near Fr. Norm Bonneau*

## HIGHLIGHTS

### FROM ST. EUGENE

"Here you are consecrated to God for life and beyond by your oblation, and I must admit in all humility, but with great consolation, that I have thereby also become your father. I do not know you personally, but since the love uniting me to my children is essentially one of the supernatural order, it is enough for me to know that our Lord Jesus Christ, our

common Master, has accepted your vows, that he has adopted and marked you with the seal that makes us what we are. As a result we are united in the most intimate bonds of charity and I belong to you always as you belong to me."

*Selected Texts #452*

*to Father C. Baret, August 18, 1843*



#### **OUR JUBILARJANS**

Bro. Wayne Jarvo, OMI  
50 years of Final Vows

Fr. Richard Kelly, OMI  
50 years of Final Vows

Fr. Larry MacLennan, OMI  
60 years Ordained

## CELEBRATIONS

#### **ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION**

Fr. Tony O'Dell (19 years)

Fr. Ollie Rich (36 years)

Fr. Claude Tardif (59 years)



#### **BIRTHDAYS**

Ron Kedrosky July 6

Fr. Hanh Van Tran July 15

Gail Hillier July 16

Brian Kerr July 17

Pam Dixon July 20

Fr. Jim Fiori July 21

#### **ONTARIO DISTRICT OMI LACOMBE CANADA**

100 Main Street  
Ottawa, ON K1S 1C2

Phone: 613-567-6418

Fax: 613-567-0967

Email: [ontariodistrict@omilacombe.ca](mailto:ontariodistrict@omilacombe.ca)

