



BC District

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September 7, 2017

BC News

2017 – 007

*Congratulations Jubilarians!
Anniversaries -September 8th*
(unless otherwise indicated)

- *Happy Birthday ...*
Jim Jordan, OMI

Sept. 9th

First Vows

Oliver Mohan, OMI	75 th
Larry Mackey, OMI	65 th
Bernie McCosham, OMI	65 th
Otto Rollheiser, OMI	60 th
Robert Smith, OMI	50 th
Andrew Stendzina, OMI	35 th

Perpetual Vows

James Dukowski, OMI	55 th
Bill MacDonald, OMI	55 th
Martin Moser, OMI	55 th

Ordination

James Dukowski, OMI	50 th	Sept. 30, 1967
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RETREAT 2017

October 16th 7:30 pm – October 20st Noon
Westminster Abbey – Mission BC

Director: Bishop Sylvain Lavoie, OMI
Theme : Walk A New Path

Registration Forms were sent out with a registration deadline of October 4th

More than a note from Father Garry....

So much has happened since July, so it is best to start with the Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage, the largest Indigenous Spiritual Gathering in North America. This was our 128th annual pilgrimage. And, true to form, we had lots of thunder, lightning, and rain, which add up to Alberta gumbo! And, we had intense heat, but none of that stopped us from praying day and night. I am still part of the Pilgrimage Board, and the first of our monthly meetings starts on the September 19th.

I left the pilgrimage earlier than usual in order to attend the closing Mass in St. Theresa's Church on the land of the Yakwekwioose First Nation. The Nation decided to use the building for a Youth Centre. The Oblates at Mission used to celebrate the Eucharist there, and the Sisters of the Child Jesus used to minister there as well. When I arrived with Deacon Renee Nahanee and his wife, Emma; the pastor at Chilliwack asked me to preside. Deacon Renee offered the homily. Thanks to him, I became aware of this event. The

Archdiocese paid for the lunch afterwards prepared by members of the Nation and served in their Big House. The former Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Steven Point, spoke beautifully at the Mass and in the Big House. That was certainly a memorable occasion, and Renee and I were happy to be there on behalf of the Oblates.

Fathers Oscar Pauwels, Vince LaPlante, Martin Moser, and I attended the Mass celebrating the 350th anniversary of the Sisters of the Child Jesus. Deacon Renee and Emma were there as well. I remember in my younger years, the Oblates from BC/Yukon speaking with gratitude about the Sisters. Only now, am I getting to meet them and understand why the Oblates spoke so highly of them. Shortly after that event, we gathered in St. Paul's on the Squamish First Nation to celebrate the 60th anniversary of vows of Sister Giovanna Davis, SCJ. That was glorious! Again, Deacon Renee gave a great homily at the Mass. There was lots of drumming and singing as well. Congratulations, Sister!

Before I was asked to be the District Superior, I went one time with Father Joachim Singarajah to visit Father Gerry Guillet in Agassiz. I enjoyed our visit. Joachim knew everyone there, and they all knew him, residents and staff. We were made to feel very welcome. It will be a joy to go back.

Joachim also took me to visit Father DD MacDonald at Brock Fahrni. Again, the staff was happy to see Joachim. Father DD was in fine form that day. He was very curious about me and asked many questions about Oblate news. I went twice on my own after that. He was in bed and quite weak, but he still welcomed me and gave me a blessing before I left. Joachim continues to visit him every week, thanks be to God. Father John Greene is also a regular visitor of his.

I am determined to get out and visit the Oblates beyond Vancouver, so I headed over to see Father Gordon Cook in Abbotsford. What a great visit! He is doing so well in the parish and in the prison. I learned a number of things from him during my short time there: a sound system for the church, flooring and insulation, and catechetics. And, what a beautiful place to live. He is definitely doing Oblate work. He is also reaching out to the nearby First Nations. They know that he is available and ready to pray with them. It is so appropriate that a magnificent totem pole stands right across the road from him. Father John Greene also told me later that Gordon is a very good photographer and attaches Scripture quotations to his pictures. I like that!

The next big event is time out with Father Bonga Majola, OMI, who comes with high regards from Oblates everywhere. I wish that I could be here to meet him and hear him speak, but I promised long ago to preside at a wedding of my cousin's daughter in Slave Lake, Alberta. On my way back from the wedding, I will be attending the Pilgrimage Board meeting at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Enoch, Alberta.

Thank you to Father Pat Brown, who looked after St. Paul's recently. He will be returning to retire in Ireland after he does some replacement work in San Diego. I like this idea of replacement ministry. Hmmmmmm. Meanwhile, we are blessed with two priests in North Vancouver who helped at St. Paul's after John died, Father John Joliffe and Father Jim Comey. They will continue to help there until a new pastor is appointed. Thank you, Reverend Fathers!

That's it for now. The adventure continues.

*With gratitude and prayer,
Garry, OMI*

REPORTS ... A FINAL REMINDER. If you wish to have your semi-annual financial report and/or your Jan-June GST 2017 report included, please send them asap to the Treasurer's Office. Thank you.

Terry Conway, OMI



THE OBLATE CHARISM ALIVE AND WELL IN THE WORLD

A RETREAT GIVEN BY FR. BONGA MAJOLA, OMI
SEPT 16, 2017 8:30-4:30 ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH CENTER
HOSTED BY THE ASSOCIATES OF OMI LACOMBE CANADA - BC DISTRICT



Fr. Bonga Thamsanqa Majola, OMI, is a member of the Oblate International Community in Aix-en-Provence, France, where St. Eugene founded the Oblates 200 years ago. His ministry is to bring to life the Charism of St. Eugene to people all over the world. He joined the Oblates in 2006, completed his studies in Rome in South Africa, Fr. Bonga en, and was ordained in 2011. He has served in parish work, formation, and has completed further studies in the life of St. Eugene. He is fluent in English, French, Italian, Zulu among other languages. His zeal is infectious: "I am convinced that our charism is still valid, alive and needed more than ever before in our world today."

St. Augustine's Parish Center 2028 W. 7th Ave., Vancouver, BC

Saturday all day: Talks, (lunch and snacks provided). Ending with 5 pm Mass

Saturday evening: Optional Pasta dinner following Mass

Retreat Fee: \$40 adults/\$30 for seniors

Pasta Dinner: \$10 per person (optional, but must be pre-ordered)

