

HIGHLIGHTS

ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

OMI Lacombe Canada

DATES TO REMEMBER:

FALL RETREAT, SEPTEMBER 11-15, MANRESA, PICKERING



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Canoe Pilgrimage for Indigenous Reconciliation

About 30 canoeists, including Indigenous, Jesuits, English, French, men and women, dropped in to Galilee on August 8 on their way from Midland, ON to Montreal, QC on a pilgrimage to mark Canada's 150th Anniversary celebrations.

The 2017 Canadian Canoe Pilgrimage is a project inspired by Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) with the hope of encouraging intercultural and interreligious dialogue and learning. Participants, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, are immersed in each other's customs and traditions. Through this immersion, the goal is to foster deep respect, trust, dialogue and hopefully friendship, the building blocks for reconciliation.

The canoe route taken is a traditional First Nations trading route that was travelled by early European settlers such as Samuel de Champlain and Jean de Brébeuf, who were welcomed and guided by the Indigenous Peoples of this land. The route follows a similar one paddled by 24 young Jesuits in 1967.

About 40 additional guests were treated to a participative Kairos Blanket Exercise as a means to learn about the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of Canada. Bob, an Indigenous elder led us in a smudging ceremony to purify our bodies, auras and energy. Then we were invited to walk slowly around adjoining blankets as actors described specific



HIGHLIGHTS

Canoe Pilgrimage (continued)

historical events like:

- what Turtle Island was like (Indigenous name for North America before colonization)
- the era of European discovery and colonization of Canada
- proclamation of the Canadian Indian Act of 1873
- establishment of Residential Schools for Indigenous children after 1880
- U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007
- PM Harper's apology to First Nations peoples of 2008

Towards the end of the exercise, those still walking found themselves greatly reduced in number. The blankets had shrunk and were separate from each other. This was a grim reminder of the impact colonization and Canadian history has had on Indigenous peoples from their cultural perspective. We then participated in a talking circle where everyone was invited to reflect on what they had just learned and felt. Much compassion, need for forgiveness and commitment to improving relations

was expressed. It was a well-balanced and poignant education experience.

Fr. Ken Forster celebrated an outdoor Mass for everyone under the stately white pines. He emphasized forgiveness, commitment and spoke about forging ahead in mutual reconciliation between Canadians and Indigenous peoples. Our day finished off with a scrumptious spaghetti and meatball dinner provided by Galilee. We marvelled at the healthy appetite of the young paddlers and for their commitment to reconciliation and forgiveness.

Participants went home better aware of Canadian history and of the ongoing dialogue of hope and forgiveness underway. We felt energized by the vitality of today's youth in taking up the social challenge. Improving relationships and building trust among all Canadians and, in particular with Indigenous peoples, is every Canadian's business. Our sincere thanks to the Galilee organizers, the paddlers and the contributors to this living history event of great educational value.

David Morgan, August 2017



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!

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.

Fr. Chris Rushton, OMI, presided at mass at his new place of living; it was a powerful time for him. He presided at the whole mass in the chapel of Emmanuel House, with the assistance of a volunteer. We are very grateful to God for these special moments that Fr. Chris is living. He is very happy in his new place and is very well attended by the personnel of Emanuel House.

Please send any suggestions for prayers to McE Galbreath at ontariodistrict@omilacombe.ca.

Financial Policies regarding Donations

As we begin to prepare our budgets for 2018, we are asked to submit our budgets by the end of September. This is important because the Ontario District needs this data to prepare its budget.

A reminder about our policy regarding donations.

Individual members are not to make donations. The Ontario District has been allocated \$3,000 towards donations in our district. If there is a work that you feel should be funded, please submit this to the Ontario District. The District Council will designate and distribute the funds. The Province also has designated funds for donations more on the national level.

Under the rules of Canada Revenue Agency, charitable groups such as ourselves are only permitted to distribute 20% of its revenue to other groups and these must be registered charities. Failure to comply with this could lead to our loss of our charity status.

An important point for us to keep in mind is that we are no longer flush with money. As you are no doubt aware we have very little revenue. In the District, there are few who make financial contributions. It is from these funds that many of us are supported.

Realistically there are few of us who, outside of Old Age Pension, receive stipends from ministry.

You are no doubt aware that OMI Lacombe has had to reduce its support for seniors. Foyer Lacombe in St Albert for example has been closed and the men transferred to public facilities.

While it is important for us to support other causes, we must do it responsibly, within the guidelines of our Provincial policies and in accord with Revenue Canada.

Fr. Jim Fiori, District Treasurer

BUDGETS FOR 2018

Please note that the due date for your personal financial budget for 2018 is September 30.

You are asked to send your personal budget into the Ontario District Office at ontariodistrict@omilacombe.ca or provide McE with a hard copy by the due date.

Oblate Studies Certificate Program

This August, the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio launched the *Oblate Studies Certificate Program*. The six online courses will give students an in-depth knowledge of the constitutive elements of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. At the June meeting of Provincial Council, a scholarship was offered to Associates across the Province who wished to undertake the course. Three Oblate Associates from Ontario District have been approved. Congratulations to Pam Dixon, David Morgan and Eleanor Rabnett!

Upcoming Events at Galilee Centre

Six Day Directed Retreat

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

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

How to Live with a Prickly Porcupine:

Letting the Difficult Person Heal Us

November 10-12, 2017

Presenter: Fr. Matt Linn, S.J.

HIGHLIGHTS

FROM ST. EUGENE

"See to it firmly that each performs his duty punctually. [...] This life is nothing for those who count on eternity; the essential is to please God [...] everything his holy will, however costly that may be to one's nature. Our vocation is to do good to everybody; when we will no longer be able to do it in one place, we will do it in another."

*Letter to Hippolyte Courtès
August 15, 1830, EO VII n 356*

"A reminder that the vocation of the members of the Mazenodian Family, especially in difficult times ... 'is to do good to everybody; when we will no longer be able to do it in one place, we will do it in another.'"

*Frank Sanctucci OMI
August 15, 2017
Eugene de Mazenod Speaks To Us*



ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST VOWS

Fr. Roy Boucher (58 years)
Fr. Andy Boyer (51 years)
Bishop Doug Crosbie (48 years)
Bro. Glenn Doughty (57 years)
Fr. Jim Fiori (51 years)
Fr. Joe Hattie (58 years)
Bro. Wayne Jarvo (56 years)
Fr. Christi Joachimpillai (67 years)
Fr. Frank Kavanagh (71 years)
Fr. Carl Kelly (65 years)
Bro. Joe Lasowski (52 years)
Fr. H. James MacDonald (51 years)
Fr. Larry MacLennan (66 years)
Fr. Gil Mason (59 years)
Fr. Jack McCann (68 years)
Fr. Mike McCarthy (50 years)
Fr. Jarek Pachocki (24 years)
Fr. Chris Rushton (50 years)
Fr. Claude Tardif (65 years)

ANNIVERSARY OF FINAL VOWS

Bro. Henry Arruda (27 years)
Fr. Roy Boucher (55 years)
Bishop Doug Crosby (44 years)
Bro. Dan Dionne (21 years)
Fr. Charles J. Donovan (54 yrs)
Bro. Glenn Doughty (51 years)
Fr. John Dourley (56 years)
Fr. Jim Fiori (48 years)
Fr. Joe Hattie (55 years)
Bro. Wayne Jarvo (50 years)
Fr. Christi Joachimpillai (64 yrs)
Fr. Carl Kelly (62 years)
Fr. Richard Kelly (50 years)
Bro. Joe Lasowski (45 years)
Fr. H. James MacDonald (47 yrs)
Fr. Larry MacLennan (63 years)
Fr. Gil Mason (56 years)
Fr. Jack McCann (63 years)
Fr. Mike McCarthy (47 years)
Fr. Jarek Pachocki (20 years)
Fr. Antonio Pannunzi (47 years)
Fr. Vaughan Quinn (57 years)
Fr. Chris Rushton (47 years)
Fr. Claude Tardif (62 years)
Fr. Bill Thompson (58 years)

ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Bishop Doug Crosby (42 years)
Fr. Chris Rushton (44 years)



BIRTHDAYS

Paul Howard	Sept 2
Fr. Joe Hattie	Sept 6
Fr. John Malazdrewich	Sept 9
Suzanne Massie-	
Manchevsky	Sept 23
Fr. Vaughan Quinn	Sept 28



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