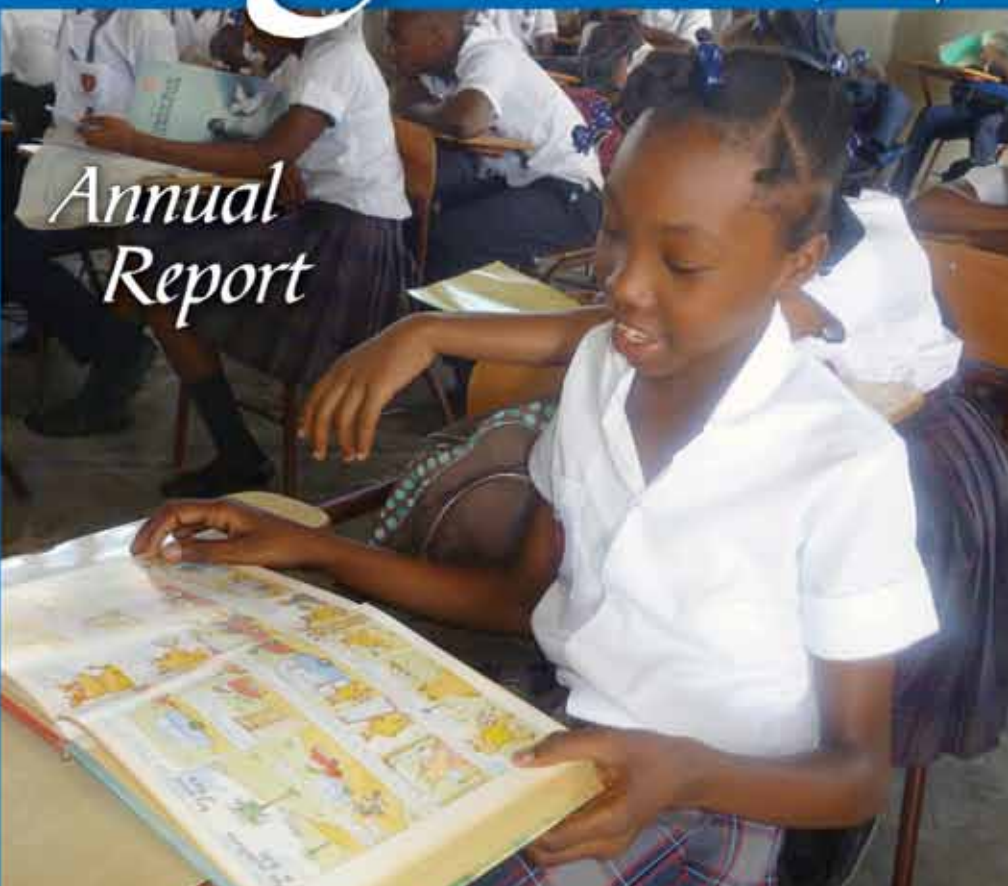


AMMI *Lacombe* MAMI
Canada

Oblate Spirit

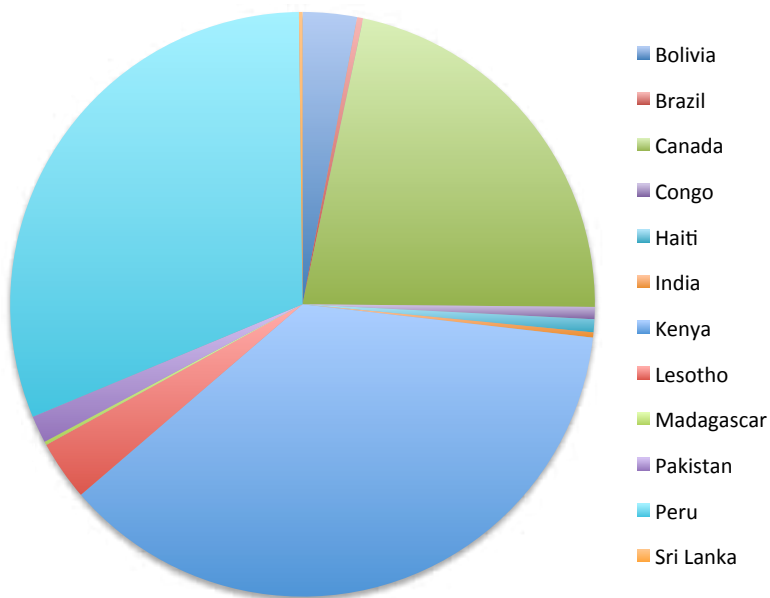
June 2014

*Annual
Report*



2013 Projects Funded

\$1,047,030.39



Bolivia	\$31,379.87
Brazil	\$3,451.00
Canada	\$228,439.87
Congo	\$7,057.55
Haiti	\$7,500.00
India	\$3,000.00
Kenya	\$386,114.43
Lesotho	\$34,717.36
Madagascar	\$2,000.00
Pakistan	\$15,760.00
Peru	\$325,529.43
Sri Lanka	\$2,080.88



Generous support

What price can you put on a smile? What is the cost of hope? What are the effects of hunger?

We could debate these issues endlessly, and while we are doing that another child may die of starvation.

Here at the MAMI office, we choose to focus on the positive, on what we can do to help our Oblate missionaries feed the hungry and provide hope for so many in need around the world.

The generosity of our Canadian supporters knows no limits. In difficult times, they seem to understand the needs of others. In good times, we celebrate our successes. In 2013, we had many reasons to celebrate. In fact, it is one of the most tremendous years of generosity we have experienced, an excellent way to kick off our annual report where we tell you how and where the funds you donate have been spent.



We are extremely pleased to have received \$2,091,308.67 from 2,492 active supporters in 2013. A few of these gifts came from estates (\$79,140) and donations of publicly traded securities (\$725,784.13).

Our fund-raising expenses (\$329,817.46) were slightly higher this year due to promotion of the Kenya Mission, but due to the increase in donations our fund-raising costs worked out to only 15.8 per cent.

In 2013 we disbursed \$1,047,030.39 to fund approximately 80 Oblate projects around the world. Remaining funds received during 2013 will continue to be distributed throughout the next years as projects and needs arise.

We publish and mail *Oblate Spirit* five times a year. It costs us an average of \$1.60 to produce and mail each English publication, while the average cost of each French publication is \$4.65. Those costs include printing of the booklet, the gift forms, the intention/prayer cards and return envelopes; assembly by the Saskatchewan Abilities Council; postage and French translation.

The projects funded included trauma and grief recovery programs in Northern Saskatchewan; health and food aid in Bolivia; food programs in Haiti; building of houses and beds,



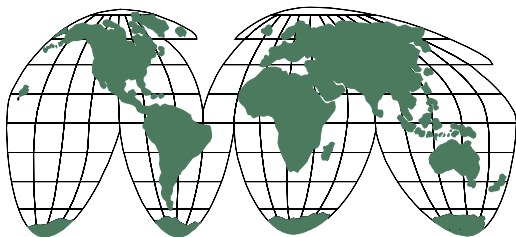


and care of the sick through the Santa Clotilde Hospital in Peru; providing workshop equipment for skills training of youth in the Congo; providing Oblate renewal programs in Lesotho; care of the mission, formation, funding for schools, water and children with special needs in Kenya; formation needs in Madagascar, India and Pakistan; as well as education for war-affected children in Sri Lanka.

When you look at the list of projects funded and imagine the effects on the poor, we are indeed hugely grateful for the generosity and compassion of our Oblate family members.

We hope the shared journey is as rewarding for our donors as it has been for the Oblates in the field.

Thank you and God bless.



2014 Goals

\$1,450,000

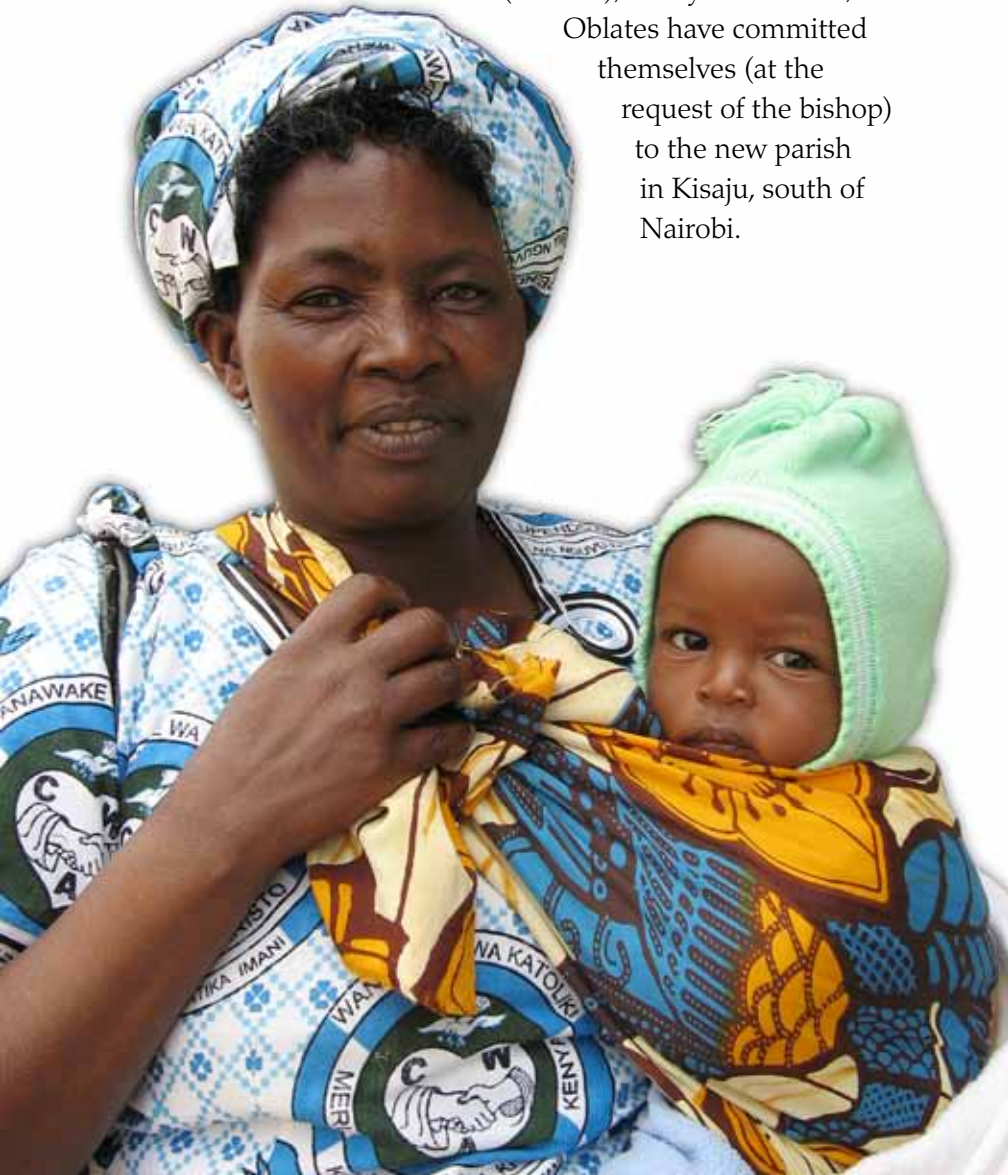
Bolivia	\$30,000
Brazil	\$10,000
Canada.....	\$250,000
Guatemala	\$10,000
India	\$10,000
Kenya	\$600,000
Pakistan.....	\$30,000
Peru	\$450,000
Sri Lanka.....	\$10,000
World (<i>Congo, Haiti, Lesotho, Madagascar, etc.</i>)	\$50,000



Africa

GOALS:

Kenya continues to be one of our primary missionary commitments. In addition to ongoing work in Karen (Nairobi), Kionyo and Méru, the Oblates have committed themselves (at the request of the bishop) to the new parish in Kisaju, south of Nairobi.





Gideon Rimberia, OMI and
Gerry Conlan, OMI at Gaturi clinic

PROJECTS FUNDED:

KENYA

- Bubwi primary school roofing and verandas
- Care of mission
- Computer, laptops and electronics
- Masses
- Méru slums
- Méru water tank
- Mission experience
- Ngongo primary school special needs unit
- Ucima primary school upgrade
- Watato CIAO – gathering of special needs children



CONGO

- City of Youth workshop equipment

LESOTHO

- Oblate renewal programs
- Refurbishment of Villa Maria Novitiate



Gideon Rimberia, OMI

Daquin Iyo, OMI



MADAGASCAR

- St. Eugene scholasticate recreation area

Ken Forster, OMI





Asia - Oceania

GOALS:

Sri Lanka continues to feel the effects of war and displacement of families, particularly orphaned children. Formation of Oblates is a high priority in India and Pakistan.



PROJECTS FUNDED:

INDIA

- Electrification renovation of formation house

PAKISTAN

- Social assistance
- Vehicle for Oblate juniorate in Multan
- Vehicle for Oblate philosophate in Lahore

SRI LANKA

- Education for war-affected children

Donating securities to Oblate missionary works

Do you have publicly traded securities that you would like to donate to the benefit of the Oblate missions? With the tax law introduced in 2006, you can directly donate your publicly traded securities (shares) to **AMMI Lacombe Canada MAMI** and receive an official income tax receipt while avoiding the payment of capital gains tax.

To take advantage of this tax-saving offer, please call Diane Lepage (1-866-432-6264) at our office for further information. A minimum market value of \$5,000 is suggested. We would be happy to facilitate this exchange that benefits you and the poor of the Oblate missions.



Canada

GOALS:

The Oblates in Canada can be found in many areas. They work with people of all ages through youth ministry, parish mission ministry, in Northern parishes, and at retreat and renewal centres. As they age, elder care becomes increasingly more important for Oblates in Canada. Gerry Conlan, OMI, shared this reflection after his visit to Mazenod House at the end of his Canada trip to promote the mission in Kenya:

“There is a saying that all good things must come to an end. But I believe that is pessimistic and unchristian. What is true is that ‘we need to come down from the mountain’ from time to time (Luke 9:27-40). In other words, beauty and good times need to be interrupted by reality so that we can recognize the beauty and goodness in our lives.

“After three weeks at Mazenod House in Saskatoon, I must say something about the retired Oblates.



Sometimes it might be easy for the older Oblates to think they have little to offer ... but my experience of them in the retirement homes was so enriching.

“They shared old stories (making modern-day hardships look like a blessing), and they laughed and provided encouragement to keep going. Some of them were half deaf, some half blind, some chirpy, some serious and some grumpy (at times). But, all of them are a testament to the value of giving ourselves to God for the good of our people.





Ron Dechant, OMI
Peter Altamirano, OMI
Garry LaBoucane, OMI

“As they should, they are given good care by wonderfully kind (and patient) women and men ... a response to Jesus’s statement that ‘the labourer deserves his wages.’ It is something to look forward to for a *young fella* like me.”

PROJECTS FUNDED:

- Imagine project at Sacred Spirit Centre
- Formation of young Inuit pastoral leaders
- Trauma and grief recovery program
- Parish missions
- Personal retreats and spiritual direction
- Repair and renovation of main house at Qu’Appelle House of Prayer
- Trailer for Qu’Appelle House of Prayer
- Oblate youth ministries
- St. Albert Catholic High School Mission Experience
- Masses and home missions

Louis Lougen, OMI, General
Superior of the Missionary
Oblate Congregation



Latin America

GOALS:

We realize how fortunate we are to live in Canada when we read about the good works our Oblates continue to conduct in Latin America providing many of the basic necessities from beds, blankets and houses to food and proper medical care. Add to this Christmas packages to bring smiles to faces in Bolivia and we can rejoice in an ongoing job well done.





PROJECTS FUNDED:

BOLIVIA

- Rain water basins
- Danilo Gotti's family home
- Education of the future, parts 1 & 2
- Punata health clinic
- Christmas packages
- Health and food aid

With thanks from Bolivia

COCHABAMBA, Bolivia – Cristina Rodriguez provides an invaluable service for the Oblates each year with the pastoral work she performs with the poor people of Bolivia, but none more so than the annual delivery of Christmas packages for the children in the mountains.

This year became even more difficult for her.

“During our trips, on the precarious roads, it rained heavily and that triggered landslides. On each trip, for a couple of days, in rather difficult conditions, these problems forced us to remain isolated and idle,” she explained.

Because of the difficult conditions, Cristina contracted pneumonia. “I was hospitalized for two weeks where I was given oxygen and was treated with numerous injections and pills. After leaving the hospital, I had to rest and recuperate. Right now, thank goodness, I feel much better and I am able to go back to my office job and continue my pastoral work with the poor.”

She praised the Canadians who supported the Christmas gift boxes she distributed to the poor children in mountainous



Bolivia. "In my prayers, I thought of you all and, from the bottom of my heart, I thank the God Child because, this time, He allowed me to discover in my flesh the difficult life all these isolated poor families go through after landslides.

"I thank each and every one of you for your great generosity. Though it was not easy, all the Christmas parcels were distributed. Children and parents welcomed them with tears in their eyes. It is difficult to explain in concrete details what we experience in the depth of our hearts.

"In spite of all the hardships, we celebrated with great joy the birth of a Child God who was humble and who came to this world to save us all.

"This joy was possible because of your generosity. We asked the Child God to reward you a hundredfold. May He bless you and all the members of your families!

"There are no words to describe the feelings of these people. Their smiles, their shining eyes, their whoops of joy, their energetic walk climbing hills and mountains to get their big Christmas present are beyond description.

"To make sure I can pursue my apostolic mission, please keep me in your daily prayers. I need your help.

"Again, I want to thank you all for your generosity, your support and your solidarity. Looking at the joy of His poor children, I am sure that God is very happy."



Gift Payment Option



We have the ability to accept donations by way of credit card! Please complete the gift form enclosed, visit our website at www.oblatemissionassociates.ca to give online, or call our office toll free: 1-866-432-6264 and we will be pleased to assist you in facilitating your donation to the Oblate missions.

PERU

- Social assistance
- Houses
- Care of elders
- Delegation of Peru expenses
- Education sponsorship
- Muyuna retreat house
- Parish needs at Aucayacu
- Pastoral needs at St. Clotilde parish
- Pre-novitiate costs
- Soup kitchen at La Paz
- Water buffalo care
- Barcaza repair
- Doctor and workers salaries
- Medical expenses
- Medical program
- Milk for malnourished children
- St. Clotilde hospital maintenance
- Tertiary care of patients in Lima
- Tuberculosis program



A touch of comfort

BY BLAISE MACQUARRIE, OMI

CHINCHA ALTA, PERU – Last Christmas, supporters of MAMI were asked to support a ‘blanket project’ in Peru. Enough money was raised to purchase and distribute 700 beautiful and warm blankets. I have a saying that goes like this: ‘a store room should always be just about empty.’

Who received these gifts from the gracious people in Canada? With the use of the parish car and pick-up truck, I went to the dirty streets looking for people, many pushing three-wheel bikes selling cookies, fruit, vegetables and ice cream, and collecting plastic bottles, paper, cardboard, pieces of iron, etc. In front of the state schools you would find mostly women selling products like candy and cookies to raise money for their families.

People in wheelchairs, the sick, the elderly, men who work with me in the house-building project, professionals like teachers and policemen all helped issue these needed blankets.

My friend Mario and I also travelled to places where none go, except the garbage truck and crew. With blankets in the back seat, we made our way to the city dump where the smell and stench would easily knock over a strong horse. In this area, as flat as the ocean, you could see many square miles of garbage. Talk about plastic! If this dump starts to burn many

people living in the area will be affected by the toxic smoke.

We found families living in the midst of their human waste, and what a pitiful sight! We gave



them blankets for the time being, but soon they will have beds and mattresses. One family of seven lived in something like a cave built on the garbage, or close to it.

We came upon another family and when we showed the woman the blankets, she thought we were selling them. She said "I have no money to buy them." When we told her the blankets were a gift from the Canadians, she simply said "may God bless them."

Upon leaving, I noticed a man of about 50 pushing a little cart. Next to him was his mother, about 80. The man is blind, and she was guiding him as they sold pop, cookies and candy. I drove past them and parked the car. When they approached I called to the woman, who came over, thinking I wanted to buy something. Instead I handed her a blanket through the open window. Her eyes filled with tears and she was so grateful and kept blessing me with the sounds of joy and gratefulness. I said, "Don't thank me, but the God-loving Canadians for their kindness."

Seven hundred blankets later, we can say: Canada did well! A difference was made in the lives of many people.





BRAZIL

- Health needs
- Nilzete orphanage

HAITI

- Food program

WANTED: YOUR STORIES!

There are many charities and good causes that solicit your support. Yet for some reason you have chosen to offer the Oblates your prayers, friendship and assistance.

We are curious:

Why did you choose us?

How did you hear about the Oblate missionary work?

How have the Oblates supported, inspired and encouraged you?

What are some of your best memories of Oblates and their missionary work?

Send your stories (and photos) to: lacombemami@sasktel.net



Cost breakdown

We at the AMMI Lacombe Canada MAMI Oblate Mission office went through a period of thoughtful debate when we discussed publishing a letter questioning the cost of raising funds that are redirected to those in need served by Oblates around the world.

The writer of the letter stated: "We found that a 20% deduction of every donation ... rather exorbitant. We would appreciate ... if you reconsidered this 20% deduction in the spirit of your founder St. Eugene de Mazenod."

Our Mission Office is dedicated solely to raising funds to support the work of Oblate missionaries, abroad and here in Canada. The *Oblate Spirit* publication is our prime source of communicating our needs and of staying in touch with our benefactors. The publication costs are a significant portion of our budget.

Our year-to-year costs are basically fixed, and have been in excess of 20 per cent of the funds raised for the last few years. However, in 2013 we experienced a significant breakthrough in that we raised \$2,091,308.67. That compares to \$1,338,919.87 in 2012 and \$1,369,739.95 in 2011.

Our administration/fund-raising costs in 2013 were \$329,817.46, or 15.77 per cent of the funds we collected. In 2012, the administration/fund-raising costs were \$311,992.02 (23.3 per cent of funds collected), and in 2011 the costs were \$300,752.37 (21.96 per cent of funds collected).



Please note the attached breakdown of the 2013 administration costs. These are basically fixed from year to year other than to account for inflationary effects. What isn't fixed is the graciousness of our benefactors. In some years, more money is raised. In others, we experience lean times.

Accounting and Legal Fees	\$3,515.00
Bank Charges and Fees – <i>includes credit card and PTS fees</i>	\$12,794.73
Computer Maintenance	\$2,391.25
Office Supplies	\$5,598.02
Photocopying	\$1,783.84
Postage – <i>sending receipts and regular correspondence</i>	\$14,766.35
Promotion – <i>Kenya Mission Awareness with Conlan</i>	\$19,785.57
Publication – <i>start to finish: staff, translation, printing, assembly, postage, courier</i>	\$102,876.20
Rent	\$22,590.12
Salaries	\$133,654.94
Telephone/E-mail/Internet/Website	\$2,257.67
Travel – <i>Global Oblate Fund-raisers' Meeting in Rome to explore self-sustainability in developing countries and visit to Kenya Mission</i>	\$7,803.77
	\$329,817.46

Oblates have always been adept at finding ways to cut expenses, and our supporters are extremely gracious in helping us in so many ways. For example, in 2013 Gerry Conlan, OMI, spent a lengthy time in Canada on a Kenya promotional/awareness tour. He “hitched” rides on private jets, was driven around the provinces and ultimately found his belt didn’t fit as well thanks to all the great food and lodging he was offered during his tour. That is the Oblate way.

Dear readers and supporters, please rest assured every effort is made to ensure the dollars you donate will find their way to the poor, to those in need at home and abroad. That is our promise.

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

Fund-raisers support Kenya mission

BY MARYANN MALONEY

VANCOUVER – The fifth Ken-Ya Help? fund-raiser, initiated by Ken Forster, OMI, in 2008, raised more than \$17,000 at St. Augustine's Parish Hall in Vancouver, and efforts by St. Augustine's School and the CWL added in excess of \$10,000 for the Kenya Mission.

This was the first time Fr. Ken was unable to attend in person due to commitments in his new position as Provincial of OMI Lacombe Canada. However, a highlight of the evening was Fr. Ken's participation via Skype as he welcomed the guests and offered a blessing in Kimeru.

Guests were greeted by an exotic display of various Kenyan items including animal carvings, original paintings, art objects, jewelry and fabrics, and memorabilia provided by people who had travelled to Kenya on the Mission Awareness Tours arranged through MAMI by OMI associate Neysa Finnie-Brown.

Inspired by information presented by Gerry Conlan, OMI, on his 2013 Canadian Mission Awareness Tour, additional fund-raising efforts included a Sunday breakfast sponsored by the Knights of Columbus at St. Augustine's Parish from which all proceeds were donated specifically for the purchase of computers.

A computer training session conducted by Mary Battle of St. Augustine's Parish also supported the purchase of computers for schools in Kenya.

The next Ken-Ya Help? fund-raiser is set for Oct. 25 at St. Augustine's Parish.

Oblate Mission travelnews

Amidst the lush tea and coffee plantations of the Méru people, on the slopes of Mount Kenya, you will find the first Oblate mission in Kenya founded and established in 1997 by Canadians and now under the direction of OMI Lacombe Canada

The Oblates have established roots and witnessed spiritual and economic growth in three communities – Kionyo, Karen and Méru. For the first time, participants on an Oblate Mission Travel excursion will experience the Oblate's newest parish in Kisaju in the Ngong Diocese south of Nairobi.

In addition to joining the Oblates in their daily work, participants will be invited to volunteer their time and energies to an orphanage in Méru, Oblate-supported secondary schools, local primary schools and a dispensary. We will celebrate the impact MAMI supporters have made on the people of Kionyo

as we visit the Women's Co-operative Bakery and the Water Project. There will be daily mass and group prayer.

The trip is scheduled for Jan. 19 to Feb. 6, 2015. For more information, please contact Oblate Mission Travel at 604-736-3972 or missiontravel@nfinnie.com.





Have you considered
including the
*Missionary
Oblates*

as a beneficiary
in your will?

*Your gift to AMMI Lacombe Canada MAMI
would ensure that the good ministry and
mission works of the Oblates continues in
Canada and throughout the world.*

*You could even specify an Oblate mission
that is dear to your heart.*



*Oblate
Spirit*

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www.oblatemissionassociates.ca

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