

AMMI *Lacombe* MAMI
Canada

Oblate Spirit

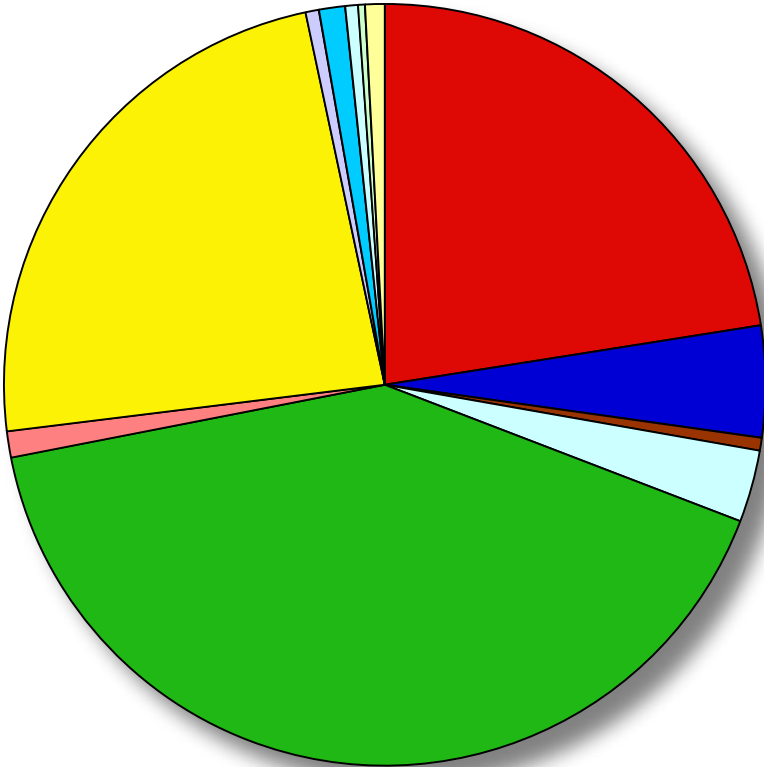


May 2010

Annual Report



2009 Projects Funded



Canada \$208,831.16	Bolivia \$44,295.00
Brazil \$5,000.00	Guatemala \$27,841.85
Peru \$379,735.92	Puerto Rico \$11,020.00
Kenya \$217,471.97	Madagascar \$5,397.78
India \$10,494.35	Pakistan \$4,800.00
Sri Lanka \$3,128.74	Various \$7,120.00



The Missionary Oblates are extremely grateful for your ongoing prayers and generous support. In 2009, the faithful family and friends of the Oblates raised \$1,707,425.66 for the ministry works and missions of the Oblates in Canada and around the world.

More than 3,000 Mission Associates generously responded to the needs of others through active prayers and financial giving. Because of your involvement, your donations funded more than 100 projects in various countries around the world totaling \$925,136.77.

In 2009, the funds were dispersed to 11 countries, including Canada. Some of the 2009 funds raised are continuing to fund ongoing projects.

The administration cost in 2009 was 20 per cent. This total includes costs related to publishing and distributing Oblate Spirit and office administration such as rent, supplies and salaries.

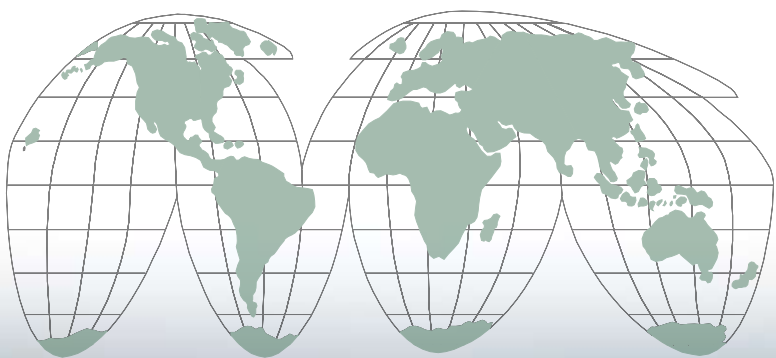
The requests for support have grown this year to include additional countries. This year we are also setting up a disaster relief fund because of natural disasters in places like Haiti, Chile and Turkey. This fund will support those countries and others that may require assistance because of natural disasters, allowing the Oblates to respond more quickly to immediate need.

Of the \$1.7 million raised in 2009, \$290,772.43 came from 10 generous members who passed away and named *AMMI Lacombe Canada MAMI* as beneficiaries in their Last Will and Testament. The generosity of their gracious hearts will be remembered for many years to come.

We ask that God will continue to bless you and your loved ones.

2010 Goals

Kenya.....	\$300,000.00
Peru.....	\$374,000.00
Bolivia.....	\$98,000.00
Puerto Rico.....	\$15,000.00
Brazil.....	\$15,000.00
Guatemala.....	\$20,000.00
India.....	\$30,000.00
Sri Lanka.....	\$30,000.00
Pakistan.....	\$35,000.00
Natural Disasters.....	\$50,000.00
Canada.....	\$250,000.00



Rays of Hope





Kenya

The mission in Kenya continues to be one of the Province of OMI Lacombe Canada's primary missionary commitments. During the 13 years the missionaries have been involved in Kenya, they have played an integral role in bringing a major water project to life. Our missionaries are deeply involved in parish life, education of children, visiting the poor, youth ministry, formation of religious vocations, and health care.



2009 PROJECTS FUNDED: \$217,471.97

Under the direction of Alfred Groleau, OMI, 2009 projects in Kenya included education and care of orphans; school fees and equipment; a solar-powered fridge; water project materials; laptops for scholastics; and assistance to the Nazareth Sisters' convent.

At the inaugural mass for the Synod for Africa in November, Pope Benedict said "Africa represents an enormous spiritual 'lung' for a humanity that appears to be in a crisis of faith and hope." Part of the Synod's message included the assertion that *"Africa is not helpless. Our destiny is still in our hands. All she is asking for is the space to breathe and thrive. Africa is already moving; and the Church is moving with her, offering her the light of the Gospel."*





2010 GOAL: \$300,000.00

- Formation
- Social assistance (orphans and widows)
- Water projects
- Youth education
- Health care (HIV centre)
- Oblate presence



Peru

You can call this a missionary experience from the ground up. From the manufacture of adobe and concrete bricks, to the construction of houses, care of the sick to operating a radio transmission, the Oblates have made a major contribution to the quality of daily and spiritual life for the impoverished in Peru. They bring a message of hope as they walk with the people.





2009 PROJECTS FUNDED: \$379,735.92

Maurice Schroeder, OMI, continued his ministry work as a medical doctor, improving facilities, expanding the outreach of health care, and caring for the suffering while also serving as the Peru delegation superior.

Blaise MacQuarrie, OMI, continued his work as “the builder”. He and his team of 26 young men built an average of 10 houses a month depending on funds. He evangelizes by social action and works on two foundations – one concrete and one spiritual.

Joe Devlin, OMI, operates on a foundation of social assistance through distribution of food, medicine and housing.



2010 GOAL: \$374,000

- Ecograph – ultrasound for the Santa Clotilde hospital
- Electrical re-wiring for the hospital complex
- Radio transmission services in the Napo River region
- House construction
- Repairs to convent and Oblate home
- An extension to garage roof to protect the new truck, old Jeep and motorcycle
- Repair of church roof in Aucayacu
- Expansion of the retreat centre
- Social assistance
- Formation
- Foster parents
- Water Buffalo
- Tuberculosis program

“On behalf of the people whom we serve, many thanks to all the kind souls for their help because without the help we receive, we could do very little.”

– Blaise MacQuarrie, OMI



Puerto Rico

2009 PROJECTS FUNDED: \$11,020

Neil Macaulay, OMI, for repair to parish roof and washrooms

2010 GOAL: \$15,000

- Assisting the poor
- Vocations



Guatemala

2009 PROJECTS FUNDED: \$27,841.85

The Oblates of Guatemala received funds for formation, scholarships, the Playa Grande Parish and convent repairs for the Sisters of St. Joseph.

2010 GOAL: \$20,000

- Formation
- Assisting the poor



Brazil

2009 PROJECTS FUNDED: \$5,000

Paulo Ehle, OMI continued to work on a project to build a system of rainwater cisterns for potable drinking water for rural families.

2010 GOAL: \$15,000

- Increase supply of water for garden produce and animals at the Family Agricultural School in the semi-arid Northeast
- Build small dams, dugout and canal system
- Equipment, labour and materials including tractor for earth moving



Bolivia



Louis and Armelle Molin and Cristina Rodriguez continue to respond to the needs of the poor, working in low-income parishes and rural remote areas. One of the main areas of concern is children and youth living on the streets of Cochabamba and isolated families in rural areas. Water projects for schools and communities is the focus of CCCIEM~Jaraña.

2009 PROJECTS FUNDED: \$44,295.00

Projects included health and food aid; rural school water projects; delivery of Christmas packages; family support; education; formation; centres for lay missionaries; a health clinic and soup kitchens.

2010 GOAL: \$98,000.00

- Assistance for youth living on the streets
- Formation of catechists
- Health and nutrition education
- Soup kitchens
- Support for a small hospital in Punata
- Pastoral care
- Travel to rural areas to provide medical, hygiene and health care
- Food security in the municipality of Toledo
- Construction of solar tents and water projects



"God is with us in every instant of our life for we are all the tools available to construct a loving world of peace and equality."

– Cristina Rodriguez

Sri Lanka

The Oblates of Jaffna Province established the Anpaham Orphanage in 1987. The country has been ravaged by war and the children have been displaced several times. Now that the war is over, Anpaham Orphanage is under reconstruction. Funds were used to feed and shelter the children during displacements.

"Our sincere and grateful thanks to all those who helped our humanitarian efforts to help the children. Our thanks also to MAMI of the Canadian Province."

– M.Paul Nadchethiram, OMI

2009 PROJECTS FUNDED: \$3,128.74

Anpaham Orphanage

2010 GOAL: \$30,000

- Anpaham Orphanage

India

Funds are required for food, education materials, and formation leaders for the development of future world-wide missionaries.

2009 PROJECTS FUNDED: \$10,494.35

Oblate Juniorate formation

2010 GOAL: \$30,000

- Formation

Pakistan

2009 PROJECTS FUNDED: \$4,800.00

The Oblates serve six parishes and many impoverished families who are unable to educate their children. Providing education for these children opens doors to employment in their own or neighbouring villages, thus reducing the burden for the families.

2010 GOAL: \$35,000

- Vehicles for formation houses



World Missions - Natural Disasters

2010 GOAL: \$50,000

The world has been shocked, literally and figuratively, by the massive earthquakes in Haiti, Chile and Turkey in the last few months. Many good Samaritans have quickly come forward to address the desperate needs of the displaced people in these devastated areas. Consequently, we would like to have funds available that would allow the Oblates to more quickly respond to these needs.



Canada

The Province of OMI Lacombe Canada has more than 250 Missionary Oblates working in a variety of ministries in Canada, along with foreign missions in South America, Africa and Asia.



**2009 PROJECTS
FUNDED:
\$208,831.16**

Among the projects funded were: a song book in Inuktitut (Bishop Reynald Rouleau, OMI); parish missions (Louis Andreas, OMI and Al Hubenig, OMI); formation of laity (Pastoral Biblical Theology program); Qu'Appelle House of Prayer (Glenn Zimmer, OMI); and youth ministry/ leadership formation (Mike Dechant, OMI and Dan Dionne, OMI).





2010 GOAL:
\$250,000.00

- Parish mission team
- Youth ministry
- Care of elders
- Formation of laity
- Northern Canada
- Prayer and Retreat Centres



In your words

BY DAVID WALSH

WINNIPEG – This story is about my mother. My mother was a young girl in Albertville (Savoie) France when her father decided to emigrate to Canada, along with a group of French people who feared for their Catholic faith in the early years of the 1900s when the government was taken over by anti-clerical factions and began a campaign of secularization of the French state.

My grandfather was a very ultramontane Catholic (he would have been quite comfortable with the Catholicism of De Mazenod), being part of the gentry in the court of the Dukes of Savoie who eventually became Kings of Italy (the House of Savoie). His decision was finalized when Mother came back from school one day to report that government agents had come into the school to take down all the crucifixes.

After trying his hand at farming in Alberta and being taken to the cleaners by slick salesmen who sold him all kinds of equipment he didn't need (he ended up, through Oblate generosity, I'm sure, as a caretaker at College Saint-Jean in Edmonton), they settled in Calgary, when it was still a shoot-em-up cowboy town (my father told us stories about that). In those days this was all Oblate territory. My parents met when she was a nursing student at St. Paul's Hospital.

One of my mom's experiences she fondly recounted to us was of nursing Father Lacombe on his deathbed. My dad, too, had become friends with Father Lacombe through his job as secretary to the president of the CPR. He, in turn, would tell us stories of Father Lacombe, of how he got materials out of that company for building his old folks home in Midnapore, of how he decreed that clergy would travel half-price on the railway



the day they made him President of the company for a day (a policy that was still in effect when I was a young Oblate), of how he would brag: “Me big bug in the CPR” to a hapless train conductor to get him to stop a train to let a Protestant minister off so he wouldn’t have to travel back miles to his mission after getting off at the next station, and many others.

Needless to say, with all these Oblate stories as part of our family’s mythology, “I” always wanted to be an Oblate. When I was growing up, it was stories like “Nanook of the North” that intrigued me, and I would even try to sleep without blankets to train myself to sleep in an igloo. This was even though I never met an Oblate until Barney Quinn, OMI, got wind of me and roped me in by taking me to the Ice Capades in Montreal.

I put the “I” above in quotation marks because, as I later discovered, in part through the excellent spiritual direction by a Jesuit in Berkeley, it was not my vocation I was pursuing, but my mother’s. As a woman she could never become a priest or an Oblate. Her last words to me before she died the night before my ordination in Rome, as she took my hands in hers, were: “Les mains d’un pretre: je n’en suis pas digne!” (The hands of a priest: I am not worthy!)

I was the youngest boy in a family of 12 children. Among the French nobility of “l’Ancien Regime” it was the practice that the eldest son would inherit the title, the second son would join the army, and the youngest son would go into the clergy. My mom always called me “mon Benjamin”.

One of the greatest gifts the Oblates gave to me, for which I will ever be grateful, was in sending me to the Roman Scholasticate in 1959. I was there for almost the entire first session of Vatican II, when the newly ignited flames of renewal were being fanned into fire under the leadership of bishops who had been discovering their backbone under John XXIII, and before being buffeted by the winds of neo-conservatism that have been trying to put them out even since. I must confess that I have allowed myself to be discouraged by these winds,

and that, in large part, is what led me to leave the priesthood and the Oblates in 1981.

I was always a religious and an Oblate before I was a priest, chronologically, of course, but especially spiritually. In the throes of my discernment I even seriously tried to consider becoming a lay brother, but that was unthinkable at the time. One of the things that was often said to religious brothers then was: "Why don't you go all the way and become a priest?" To which they would reply: "Why don't YOU go all the way and become a brother?"

As an Oblate I always wanted to "teach in the scholasticate" because that seemed to me to be the only way I could seriously engage in the ministry of spiritual direction at that time. I have now been freelancing as a spiritual director for more than 25 years, and am presently co-directing a training program for spiritual directors called "Shekinah" out of St. Benedict's Monastery in Winnipeg.

I have found MY vocation.

I have found new hope in the Church in my soul of late. And that hope was given a big boost by my 10-day visit this fall with Doug Crosby, an Oblate, a Spirit-inspired priest and bishop who has that backbone that so encouraged me back in the '60s.

WANTED: YOUR STORIES!

There are many charities and good causes which 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



Oblate Mission travel news

There are still a few spots available for the Oblate Mission Travel to Peru this summer. Canadian Oblates Moe Schroeder, OMI, Joe Devlin, OMI, and Blaise MacQuarrie, OMI, are looking forward to welcoming the group and sharing their ministries.

This mission will take us from the busy, inner city parishes in Lima along the coast to Chinchá Alta, heavily damaged by the 2007 earthquake, where Blaise has worked tirelessly in the rebuilding process. The Oblates may be the only order to own and operate a gravel pit!

We will travel to the high Andes and the missions of Orcotuna and Aucayacu. Finally, we will travel by boat to Sta. Clotilde deep in the jungle along the Napo River where Fr. Moe's hospital was founded almost 30 years ago.

Our spiritual director will be Mario Azrak, OMI, a Sudan-born Australian who is part of our Kenya Mission team. It has the potential to be the experience of a lifetime. There are

two options for the expedition: July 2-13 (Lima, Chinchá Alta, Orcotuna and Aucayacu) or July 2-20 (also includes Sta. Clotilde and Machu Picchu).

Contact Neysa Finnie nmfinnie@yahoo.com or call (604) 736-3972 for additional information. The trip is limited to 16 people.



AMMI Lacombe Canada MAMI is pleased to support various Oblate Missions and Ministries, such as:

Canada...

Care of Elders
Education of Laity
Education of Oblates
First Nations
Northern Canada
Parish Mission Team
Prayer and Retreat Centres
Youth Ministry Team

World...

Bolivia
Brazil
Guatemala
India
Kenya
Pakistan
Peru
Puerto Rico
Sri Lanka



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including the
*Missionary
Oblates*
as a beneficiary
in your will?



Your gift to AMMI Lacombe
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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.



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