

# HIGHLIGHTS

## ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS



OMI Lacombe Canada

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**FEBRUARY 16/17 CELEBRATIONS**

**COMMUNITY DAYS, FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 2, ARNPRIOR**

**CONVOCATION 2018, APRIL 9-13, CORNWALL**

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## THE YEAR OF OBLATE VOCATIONS

The Superior General, listening to Oblates from around the world, older and younger, heard the desire for support to renew the ministry of inviting new members to join the Congregation. Following the first Congregation-wide vocation congress, held in Aix last July, the recent General Chapter was called to dedicate a year to the theme of Oblate vocations. In response to this call, Fr. Louis Lougen announced the "Year of Oblate Vocations," from December 8, 2017 to January 25, 2019. The theme is "Come and See! (John 1:39): Focusing on the Joy and Generosity of Our Oblate Life."

The dedication to this ministry supports Pope Francis' message of early December: "stop making excuses for not answering God's call to share in his mission in a particular way. The joy of the Gospel, which makes us open to encountering God and our brothers and sisters, does not abide our slowness and our sloth, it will not fill our hearts if we keep standing by the window with the excuse of waiting for the right time, without accepting this very day the risk of making a decision. Vocation is today! The Christian mission is now!"

Frs. Mark Blom and Mario Azrak are planning a busy year as they crisscross this vast country, visiting parishes and ministries where they hope to

encounter interested individuals who wish to discern their involvement in the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Ontario features in their calendar during April, with stops in Cornwall and Hamilton from April 9 to May 7, 2018. The focus of their program this year is the Vocation Discernment Weekend, August 31 to September 3, in St. Albert, AB.

You are welcome to read up on news and developments in this ministry on the OMI World and OMI Lacombe websites.

As we support Frs. Mark and Mario, let us remember the prayer for Oblate vocations:

*Holy Father, we come to you because Jesus asked us to pray that you send workers into your harvest. Therefore, send us generous young men, passionate for Jesus, willing to make of their whole life a total oblation to you, to become close to the poorest and most abandoned, and to proclaim the Gospel. May they burn with the same fire that you enkindled in Saint Eugene; may they come to be part of his family; and with all the Oblates, may they continue the work of redemption. Mary Immaculate, who first gave Jesus to the world, be with us as we pray.*

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## BIRTHDAYS

Fr. Gil Mason	Jan 3
Maureen Pinsonneault	Jan 6
Fr. Christie Joachim Pillai	Jan 6
Bro. Joe Lasowski	Jan 20
Fr. Richard Beaudette	Jan 21
Bro. Henry Arruda	Jan 29

## PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

**Ron Kedrosky**, while continuing to deal with his cancer, was able to join the Galilee BOC and make his re-commitment as an Oblate Associate on November 3.

**Jack McCann, OMI**, has started a new chemo treatment for lung cancer. His sense of humour and creativity are very hard to repress in spite of the fatigue.

**Chris Rushton, OMI**, resides at Emmanuel House Palliative Care Centre in Hamilton. He spent some time decorating for Christmas last month and sent a wonderful Christmas greeting by email.

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

## Mark Your Calendars for 2018

### Community Days:

Feb 26-March 2, 2018  
Galilee Centre

### Fall Retreat:

August 19-24, 2018  
Galilee Centre

## PERSONAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND GST/HST SLIPS

Just a reminder that all 2017 personal financial statements are due into the Ontario District office by January 31, 2018. If you have any questions, or wish additional copies of the reporting form, please contact McE in the office at the number below.

GST/HST slips or reports for 2017 are also to be sent into the Ontario District office to be collated for a rebate!

The reports are gathered from across the country and the rebate is substantial. Thank you for cooperating in this venture!

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