



Saskatchewan District Community  
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## Sights & Sounds

January 12, 2018

**Convocation 2018 ~ Living the Call: Encountering Each Other** will be held at the NAV Centre in Cornwall, ON from April 9-13, 2018. Please fill out and return your registration form before February 1, 2018 to:

Convocation Committee  
OMI Lacombe Canada  
96 Empress Avenue  
Ottawa, ON K1R 7G3  
[igigault@omilacombe.ca](mailto:igigault@omilacombe.ca)

Phone: 613-230-2225 Fax: 613-230-2948

All Oblates are invited. The Convocation takes place only every three years, so make it a priority. If your health does not prohibit you from traveling, we have hope of seeing you... Delegates from the Associates of every district will be invited... A preparatory package will be sent out in January to District Superiors, so that everyone will have a good foundation to participate well. (Excerpts from Fr. Ken Forster, OMI's letter.)

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**Fr. Syl Lewans, OMI** has moved to Samaritan Place this week ~ Room #203 – 375 Cornish Road, Saskatoon. He is in good spirits and all are welcome to drop in for a visit.

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Prayers are requested for **Fr. Moe Schroeder, OMI** as he deals with some medical issues. Fr. Moe's visit to the Santa Clotilde Hospital in Peru has been postponed to a later date. Please pray for Gaetane Paul who is on an indefinite health leave and for other members of the Oblate community who are struggling with their health.

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There will be an **SDC Council Meeting** on Monday, January 15, 2018 with agenda items including planning for the upcoming Community Days. The **Saskatchewan District Community Days** will begin at 1:30 pm on Thursday, February 15 and conclude with lunch on Friday, February 16. Please register through **Pauline Henry** at Queen's House by phone: 306-242-1916 or e-mail: [bookings@queenshouse.org](mailto:bookings@queenshouse.org). Vowed Oblates will renew their vows and Oblate Associates will renew their commitments at the February Community Days.

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**News from Trinity Manor:**

- The next coffee gathering will be on Thursday, January 18, 2018 beginning at 3:00 pm
- The next Trinity Manor BOC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2018 beginning at 3:00 pm

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**Update from Potter's House BOC:**

Eight members of the Potter's House BOC were able to gather January 5-7 at Qu'Appelle House of Prayer. After our initial meeting with SDC updates and evening prayer in the chapel, the new volunteer couple, Tim and Kathy, treated Glenn, Margaret, Mike, Jim, Adele, David and Karen, together with outgoing volunteers, Catherine and Rick, to a seven course culinary extravaganza amid much lip-smacking, laughter and sharing into late Friday evening. Saturday morning Paula joined us to continue our sharing on each other's lives and supporting each other in various transitions. Lengthy exchanges also took place about the House of Prayer and a succession plan (both interim and long-term), the upcoming Convocation, the life of the SDC, possible upcoming retreats and so on. We used Fr. Ron Rolheiser's "The Christ Child of the Year" to lead us into our Epiphany celebration, continuing to celebrate over our potluck fun and feasting. After Sunday morning quiet prayer in the chapel together, we brunchd and broke up our gathering in hugs and prayers as six members headed home to Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina. Paula summed a big thank you for us all: "I feel like it's a loving family I've been adopted into." Thank you, Margaret and Glenn, for your hospitality and open hearts as you "pause" in your ministry at QHP.

(Submitted by Karen Sax and Fr. Glenn Zimmer, OMI)

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**Changing Times at the Qu'Appelle House of Prayer**

There have been many changes at Qu'Appelle House of Prayer over the years, most especially with core community personnel. Now well into our 23<sup>rd</sup> year, these transitions continue. In June 2014, Catherine Barnsley and partner Rev. Rick McCorrister moved in – "for a year or more;" beginning this March 1, they will be leaving for extended personal time, which they have not enjoyed in many years.

This imminent change has also given us the occasion to take a "pause" during the first six months of 2018 – a pause, not a sabbatical. This time of intentional rest, when we will be better able to live the life we long to live, will be a graced time to discern the coming years of QHP, together with several others committed to this way of life and ministry. That reflection has already begun with Potter's House BOC, Saskatchewan District Community and key others. Numerous people – couples and individuals – have recently asked to be considered,

whether to help out as needed, and significantly, to be part of the core community life and work as live-in persons. Within the next few months, a focus weekend with selected participants is being planned to revisit the Vision Statement and to reconsider how it might best be realized during the next 3-5 years. More than ever, seekers from so many backgrounds are coming to the House of Prayer. How do we best continue to welcome? What new form(s) might be emerging from what has been for well over 20 years? How might we best care both for ourselves and for our valued property as it too ages along with us? What new horizons of leadership and new options for volunteer help and shared life might be emerging? In what substantive ways might oversight and responsibility for the House of Prayer be widened?

During these six months, we will welcome resident guests less frequently, and more often those who come here to pray with us and to celebrate Eucharist on a regular basis. Resident part-time volunteers have already been arranged during this time. Other usual ministries, such as responding to local and other pastoral needs, initiatives for interfaith work and so forth, will also continue. Several administrative “upgrades” will also take place to assist evolving eventual succession plans.

Questions, suggestions and participation are wholeheartedly welcoming, particularly from the Oblate Associates and vowed Oblates in OMI Lacombe Province.

(Submitted by Fr. Glenn Zimmer, OMI and Sr. Margaret Dick, SNJM)

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**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** begins on Sunday, January 21 and concludes on Sunday, January 28. The service on Thursday, January 25 is being hosted by Queen’s House and will begin at 12:00 pm followed by a luncheon. Attached you will find a detailed schedule for the Saskatoon area.

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**SDC Oblates** with a personal bank account are to submit the following items to Corrine Pambrun as soon as possible or prior to February 2, 2018:

- Fourth Quarter Financial Reports for 2017
- 2017 GST Receipts

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**Corrine Pambrun** will be away from the office from Wednesday, February 7 to Tuesday, February 13 celebrating the marriage of her daughter. **Congratulations Nikki & Jay!!!**

