



Prayers

Mrs. Thérèse Fournier, the sister of Fr. Camille Piché, passed away on February 22nd, 2018 in Medicine Hat, AB, she was 85, She leaves to mourn her husband of 60 years, Aimé Fournier and their five children. A funeral will take place on Saturday, March 3rd. in Medicine Hat.

Mr. Dominic 'Thomas' Andreas, father of Br. Louis Andreas, omi passed away on February 25, 2018 in Lancer, SK at the age of 97. Funeral will take pace on Thursday, March 1st. in Lancer.

March Anniversaries



Birthdays

March 12 – Fr. Alfred Groleau

March 19 – Br. Clayton Hansen

March 20 – Br. Louis Andreas

First Vows

March 17 – Br. Tom Cavanaugh (54 years)

March 25 – Fr. Jean-Paul Vantroys (72 years)

February 17 - Oblate Feast Day (by Alfred Groleau, OMI)

This is a traditional celebration for Oblates and it was also a welcoming one for many associates. For the first time in Brother Anthony District, we witnessed three year promises of Associates committed to OMI Lacombe Canada, some of whom have journeyed with us on a district level for many years prior. Also, there were nine professing their association for the first time.



What is it that has drawn them to share the inspiration of our charism? For some it was the last World Youth Day in Poland that helped them get to know the Oblates better. Some have worked intimately with us, either in Parish or Retreat Ministry, or, in particular, the Oblate Mission team. In one case the friendliness of an Oblate to the children with his dog led him to discover that “lens” through which he found the meaning of his Christian life. Certainly, the meetings of our BOCs provided a family ambiance that allowed for meaningful sharing as well as an



exposure to the life and charism of the founder. We are grateful to our local Associate animators and for the excellent resources developed by Sandra Prather that offers substance and structure for the initiation of new family members.

It was quite a celebration that we had: both fasting and feasting as we were superbly hosted by St. Albert Parish. We celebrated this Oblate Feast one day early out of convenience for our parish priests. During Lent, the parish offers the stations of the cross on Friday evenings; these were advanced to 6:00 pm because of our celebration. Intentionally and in good taste, the reflections for the stations were taken from St. Eugene and the Oblate Constitution. Oblate Associates led the prayer.

A good number of parishioners stayed for the Mass of thanksgiving and witnessed our renewal of vows and the commitments of our Associates: nine making promises for the first time and receiving our Oblate cross and many renewing for one or three years.



Other associates who could not attend will renew promises later at our Basic Oblate Community (BOC) meetings.

We are grateful particularly for the devotion of St. Albert parishioners shown in the warmth of their reception, for the leadership of Father Ignacy Warias, OMI and Serena Shaw, a member of St. Albert Parish staff and now a professed Oblate Associate. During Mass, Natalia Shrader shared an inspiring reflection on her experience in Assumption, Alberta in the 1980s when she and her husband Ed were shepherds of the Dene community. At BOC meetings this past year, Debbie Doornbos, Lucie Leduc and I have accompanied the candidates who made their profession this year and we know of at least two couples who wish to follow this journey in the coming year.

Star BOC Meetings

The next Star BOC meetings will be held on the following Wednesdays: March 21, April 18 and May 16. Meetings are held at Star of the North Retreat Centre from 7 to 9:15 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Programs at Star of the North

Registration: 780-459-5511 or www.starofthenorth.ca

Healing Our Image of God with Matt Linn, SJ. This retreat aims to help heal the wounds that prevent us from discovering and trusting the God of Life. www.linnministries.org 7 pm
Fri Mar 2 to 1 pm Sun Mar 4 Live-in: \$250 Commute: \$190

Breaking New Ground Together The TRC Calls to Action - Three Years Later - Willie Littlechild. Join us as we continue the dialogue inspired by the TRC Calls to Action, and move forward together toward a renewed relationship and brighter future for all. 7 pm
Wed March 7th, Please pre-register: \$10 (Subsidy available)

Slow Down! Leaning Into Lent: Daring to go Deep A Retreat Day with Sandy Prather
We will enter into the saving mystery by reflecting on Jesus' 'Seven last Words' from the cross. Heart-breaking, sorrowful, hope-filled: the prayers from the cross reveal the heart and mind of Christ and his deep relationship to his 'Abba.' Thursday, March 15,
9:30 to 3 pm \$40

Hands-On Forgiveness: Breaking Free and Moving Forward with Fr. Peter Doherty, OMI & Patti-Anne Kay. Come explore forgiveness as a multi-level process that takes place on spiritual, psychological and physical levels. There will be in-depth presentations, discussions and quiet reflection on the deep nature of the call to forgive 7 pm
Fri March 16-1 pm Sun March 18 Live-in: \$250. Commute: \$190

Twilight Recovery Evening Retreats with Sylvain Lavoie

You are invited to join us for input, support group sharing and prayer, in these evenings open to anyone either in a 12 Step Program, or loving one who is, as well as anyone wanting to learn more about addictions and the recovery process. Thursdays: Mar 22, Apr 19, May 17 By donation