



Saskatchewan District Community
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Sights & Sounds

March 20, 2018

Please remember the following in your prayers:

- *Br. Don Claerhout who is recovering well from hernia surgery on March 19, 2018*
- *Fr. Joe Jacek who will be having hernia surgery in Humboldt on March 22, 2018*
- *Br. Oscar Delanghe who remains in St. Paul's Hospital. We are all hoping that he can return home soon*

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Trinity Manor

The Trinity Manor BOC will gather today (March 20) at 3:00 pm to celebrate community and to discuss the 2018 Convocation response and input statement submitted by the Saskatchewan District Community.

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Battleford Community

- *Br. Don Claerhout had successful minor surgery on the 19th and is expected home today*
- *Fr. Richard Wolak will be leaving for Toronto today to celebrate with his sister on her 80th birthday and then will go to Cornwall for the Lacombe Convocation*
- *All four of us will be attending the 2018 Convocation*

- *Fr. Moe Schroeder asks you to pray for his sister, Mrs. Gay Couture of Saskatoon who has been diagnosed with cancer*
- *Fr. Ed MacNeil has been reading material in preparation for our gathering at Cornwall in April when he is not out walking Caper*
- *Special thanks to Corrine for the patience and extra work she has been doing for us in various financial situations*
- *Recent visitors to the "Hill": Oblates Eugene Whyte, Wendelin Rolheiser, John Zunti, Bill Stang, Mike Dechant, Nestor Gregoire, Sylvain Lavoie and Associates Dan and Janice Lamoureaux*
- *We also welcome Catholic Family Services for their quarterly meeting*
- *Thanks to Potter's House for hosting our recent District meeting on the theme of Inculturation*

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Feast of St. Joseph

On March 19 we celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph who is Patron of our Brothers. We in Lacombe Province pay homage to the memory of the many Brothers who have served in our Oblate communities across this country. Twenty-five are still living and a number are still in active ministry:

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| • Br. Harley Mapes | Treasurer of OMI Lacombe Canada Province, Ottawa |
| • Br. Tom Cavanaugh | Director of The Crescent Community, Vancouver |
| • Br. Jerry Prazma | Minister at Anahim Lake Reserve, BC |
| • Br. Louis Andreas | Member Gareth Community (Graphic Design), St. Albert |
| • Br. Don Clarehout | Member of St. Mary's Residence, Battleford |
| • Br. Dan Dionne | De Mazenod Door Ministry to Homeless, Hamilton |
| • Br. Rusty Gardiner | Prison Ministry, Winnipeg |
| • Br. Krzysztof Janca | Chancery, Diocese of Churchill |
| • Br. Thomas Novak | First Nations Ministry and Migrant Workers, Winnipeg |
| • Br. Edouard Prince | Minister at Lutsel Ké, NWT |
| • Br. Len Rego | Director of JPIC Office, Ottawa |
| • Br. Joseph Magambo | Formation Team Member, Kenya |

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News from Prairie Flower House of Prayer ~ Submitted by Fr. Doug Jeffrey

Since Dan and Janice Lamoureaux (Oblate Associates) and Fr. Doug Jeffrey developed the idea of the Prairie Flower House of Prayer, we have experienced the amazing support and encouragement of many people. While the dream to develop a House of Prayer was a good one, our ministry and our personal, financial and family commitments prevent the further development of the House of Prayer. At the present time Dan and Janice will continue to live at the farm. Fr. Doug will continue to live in Wilkie. Our commitments to ministry and prayer will remain the same. Fr. Doug will work with MAMI to contact past donors to ensure their wishes are respected. We want to again thank you for your support, your prayer and your encouragement as we worked at developing the Prairie Flower House of Prayer.

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Living through Transition at the Qu'Appelle House of Prayer ~ Submitted by Fr. Glenn Zimmer and Sr. Margaret Dick, SNJM

The departure of Catherine and Rick from the Qu'Appelle House of Prayer, after about 20 years of involvement including close to four years of living at QHP, has occasioned a unique opportunity, as well as need, to discern a thorough, open-minded review of QHP and its next 3 – 5 years. Other realities of life support this revisioning: our own declining energies; increased requests for stays at the house; need for property upgrades; and more “pastoral” requests than ever coming from outside the house.

A discernment is underway with a variety of committed and knowledgeable partners; among these are some of the guests who have come here for many years; current volunteers and others asking for more participation in the life and work of QHP; the Lacombe Province leadership; and Associate and Oblate members of the Saskatchewan District Community.

Volunteers and benefactors always have been and are vital to the existence of the house. During these months there continue to be several who help out for a few hours, even for a few days. From the beginning of May until the end of June, six live-in volunteers will be here, usually two or three at a time. Plans are underway for the remaining summer and autumn months to assure both community life and work. Although deliberately somewhat fewer in number for the time being, several guests continue to come for personal time under a variety of arrangements. This, both groups and individuals, includes anything from a full house during the Triduum and Easter to a 3-month resident on a sabbatical.

The past weekend, March 16 – 18, has been a positive example (and helpful learning) of alternative possibilities for the house of prayer. Five teenagers from the local Anglican church, with their pastor and one parent, spent the entire weekend (Friday afternoon to Sunday morning) on retreat, much of it in silence. Participants took the lead for meal preparation,

with the two of us in a support role. It was a very positive experience in every way, and also stretched our imaginations for future possibilities. The youth, all part of a two-year Discipleship Formation program, have asked for two more weekends at the house of prayer.

A weekend of visioning and planning will take place in late May; a variety of persons from different backgrounds and experiences will contribute to revisiting the original Vision and Mission statement, the implementation of this for the next 3 – 5 years and the clarifying of what wider co-responsibility for the house might practically look like – and why.

That being said, after nearly 23 years, there are more uncertainties than certainties, there are more things not in our power than in our control and best intentions. We walk by faith and do the best we can day by day.

As always, we count on the questions, suggestions, concerns and participation especially from the Oblate Associates and vowed Oblates in OMI Lacombe Province.

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The Way of the Cross through the Voice of Victims ~ Submitted by Fr. Glenn Zimmer

“A special welcome to those of you who may have been alienated from the church, who have been wounded by members of the church or who are victims of clergy sexual abuse... This is not an easy way of the cross to participate in, and is not for the faint of heart... for victims of clergy sexual abuse, a church can be a very painful place... Where love was to be spoken... power was misused ... God’s love was not revealed, but hidden.” Message of Archbishop Donald Bolen, Archbishop of Regina.

These words welcomed a few people in Our Lady of Sorrows church late Sunday afternoon on Sunday, March 18. Before the beginning of the 14 stations, we were quietly reminded: “We stand broken. All of us.” With each station, as we moved around the church, we heard the voices of victims – real victims of clergy sexual abuse, because this way of the cross used the words of actual victims. One was present for the service. After the last station, another woman, Joyce (not her real name), abused by a priest as a young person, turned to me and simply said: “Every one of the words of those victims could be mine.”

This unusual way of the cross is taking place throughout the diocese, in every deanery and in some parishes. It is the initiative of Bishop Don.

This morning, about 8:30, the phone rang. It was Joyce. She had two questions: “Did you have your coffee yet?” (Yes!) and “Can I come for coffee with you?”